



ACLU: Federal agencies setting 'trap' to deport immigrants

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Federal immigration agencies have launched a coordinated campaign to arrest and deport immigrants seeking to become legal U.S. residents through marriage, according to documents released this week in a class-action lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The documents, which include depositions and correspondence from federal officials, show the extent to which officials for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have been coordinating with their counterparts at Immigration and Customs Enforcement to facilitate arrests at citizenship offices in New England.



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In this Feb. 14, 2018, file photo, Lilian Calderon, center, cries as she describes her experiences while in custody, alongside her husband, Luis Gordillo, right, during a news conference at the office of the American Civil Liberties Union in Providence, R.I.

Associated Press

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Pentagon spokeswoman under inspector general investigation

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' public affairs chief is being investigated by the department's inspector general after allegations that she misused her authority and used her staff for personal business, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

The Pentagon issued a statement acknowledging there is an "ongoing review" of Dana W. White, but had no other comment.

The officials, who requested anonymity to discuss details of the investigation, said that White is alleged to have routinely used her personal staff to run errands, get her laundry, pick up lunch, and help with other appointments. They said she had a staff mem-



In this April 14, 2018, file photo, Pentagon chief spokesperson Dana W. White takes questions during a media availability at the Pentagon.

Associated Press

nel in rank — in the last 16 months.

The use of staff for personal tasks is prohibited. At least two former employees filed complaints with the inspector general within recent months, but others have been interviewed in connection with the cases.

White, who is traveling in South America with Mattis, declined to comment. Bruce Anderson, spokesman for the IG, said "the DoD Office of Inspector General does not generally acknowledge or deny the existence of an investigation."

The investigation was first reported by CNN.

White has worked as Mattis' assistant defense secretary for public affairs since April 2017. Prior to that she worked as strategic communications director for the Renault-Nissan Alliance in Paris and was an adviser on the 2008 presidential campaign of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

The IG will conduct the investigation and, if the allegations are substantiated will release the report publicly. If the allegations aren't substantiated the reports are usually not released. □

ber drive her to work on a snowy day, and when the person complained she wrote a check to cover the cost of the trip.

Officials said White also is accused of retaliating against staff, and transferring employees out of their jobs without cause, including after staff complained about certain assignments and tasks. There has been frequent staff turnover in her office, and she's had four different military assistants — usually a colo-

EPA challenged safety of administration mileage freeze



In this June 19, 2015, file photo, traffic heads eastbound on Rt 50 in Bowie, Md.

Associated Press

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency privately challenged the Trump administration's rationale for freezing Obama-era mileage standards, saying the proposal would actually increase U.S. highway deaths.

In announcing the mileage proposal earlier this month, officials with the EPA and Department of Transportation contended the mileage freeze would save about 1,000 lives a year. But in a June email, senior EPA staffers told the Office of Management and Budget — the White House office charged with evaluating regulatory changes — that it would slightly increase highway deaths, by 17 annually. The "proposed standards are detrimental

to safety, rather than beneficial," William Charmley, director of the assessments and standards division of the EPA's office of transportation and air quality, said in a June 18 interagency email, released Tuesday.

While the Trump administration has said it wants to freeze mileage standards after 2020, agencies are still seeking public comment on that and other options, EPA spokesman John Konkus said Tuesday. "These emails are but a fraction of the robust dialogue that occurred during interagency deliberations for the proposed rule," he said.

The Obama-era rules, which lay out years of increasingly toughened mileage standards, were one of the former administration's biggest efforts

against climate-changing tailpipe emissions and were also meant to lessen Americans' overall dependence on the gas pump.

The Trump administration's own public report on the mileage freeze proposal projected that it would cut tens of thousands of auto-industry jobs. EPA acting administrator Andrew Wheeler had emphasized the safety projections as one of the strongest arguments for the mileage freeze.

Essentially, the Trump administration argues in part that the mileage freeze would make vehicles cheaper, because automakers would not have to spend as much on fuel efficiency. As a result, the Department of Transportation argued, safer, newer vehicles would get on the road more quickly.

The June EPA email says the administration's proposal miscalculates the amount of vehicle turnover as a result of any mileage freeze. A former EPA senior staffer, Jeff Alson, said Tuesday that the documents released Tuesday showing the interagency discussions on the freeze made clear that "EPA career staff were totally ignored, despite DOT trying to deceive the public into thinking that EPA supports the analysis." □



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ACLU: Federal agencies setting 'trap' to deport immigrants

Continued from Front

The ACLU, in its arguments, criticizes the efforts as a deportation "trap" that violates the constitutional rights of immigrants otherwise following the rules to become legal residents.

"The government created this path for them to seek a green card," Matthew Segal, legal director for the ACLU of Massachusetts, said in an interview Tuesday.

"The government can't create that path and then arrest folks for following that path."

ICE spokesman John Mohan responded that allegations of "inappropriate coordination" between the two agencies are "unfounded" and that coordination between the two Department of Homeland Security agencies is "lawful and legitimate." He declined to elaborate, citing the pending litigation.

USCIS spokesman Michael Bars declined to comment on the legal filing, but said his agency, in general, notifies law enforcement of individuals with an outstanding warrant or removal order and leaves it to them to decide if an arrest is necessary.

The ACLU lawsuit argues that Homeland Security regulations created under former President Barack Obama allow immigrants with U.S.-citizen spouses to stay in the country while they seek a green card — even if they're already subject to deportation.

"That regulation is still the law of the land," Segal said Tuesday.

"So arresting these folks is not about law and order. These are people with a path to legalization and the government is trying to block that."

The federal government, in seeking to dismiss the lawsuit, argues in part that federal District Court has no jurisdiction in the matter.

The ACLU's more than 250-page legal brief includes emails between ICE officials outlining how it coordinates arrests with USCIS in New England.

Andrew Graham, a Boston-based ICE officer, said the agency generally receives from USCIS lists of immigrants seeking legal residency who have already been ordered for deportation, had re-entered the country illegally or were considered "an egregious criminal alien."

Graham said ICE then works with USCIS to schedule interviews so that ICE agents can be present to make an arrest. He noted ICE prefers to spread out the interviews to ease the workload on its agents and to prevent generating "negative media interest" from the arrests.

"At the end of the day we are in the removal business and it's our job to locate and arrest them," Graham wrote in part.

The ACLU's legal brief is the latest in the class-action suit filed earlier this year on behalf of immigrants who have been or fear being separated from their U.S.-citizen spouses.

The case will be argued Aug. 20 in Boston federal court and names five couples, including lead plaintiffs Lilian Calderon and Luis Gordillo, of Rhode Island.

Gordillo is a U.S. citizen, but Calderon is a native of Guatemala who came to the country with her family at the age of 3. She was ordered to leave in 2002 after her father was denied asylum.

The 30-year-old mother of two was detained by ICE in January after she and her husband attended an interview at the USCIS office in Johnston, Rhode Island, to confirm their marriage.

Calderon was released in February after the ACLU challenged the detention. □



In this March 12, 2008, photo, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents patrol for undocumented immigrants in Utah County Jail in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Associated Press



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No leaks: Cushy job offers for discarded Trump staffers

By **ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Keep your friends close and your enemies closer. And, perhaps, your potential leakers closer yet.

President Donald Trump's political operation has made a regular practice of providing soft landing-pads for discarded staffers, offering nebulous jobs at big salaries to aides who have been pushed out of his West Wing.

The revelation this week that former White House assistant Omarosa Manigault Newman was offered a high-paying job on Trump's re-election campaign in return for signing a non-disclosure agreement was the clearest demonstration yet of how a slot in the Trump orbit is being used to take care of loyalists — and protect against potential liabilities.

Manigault Newman, who contends in her new book that she was offered a hush-money contract with the Trump campaign paying \$15,000 a month, is hardly the first erstwhile staffer to find a lucrative off-ramp in the expanse of pro-Trump political organizations. The former staff members have found a wide range of rehabilitation within Trump's orbit: his re-election campaign, the Republican National Committee, and outside groups that support both him and Vice President Mike Pence. Keith Schiller, the president's former bodyguard who served for eight months as director of Oval Office operations, has been paid the same \$15,000 a month by the Republican National Committee as a security consultant for its national conven-

tion — in 2020 in Charlotte. John McEntee, Trump's former personal aide, is paid \$14,000 a month by the Trump re-election cam-

him are false — and has been playing recordings of the president and others on TV. That's exactly what he wanted to avoid, and

officials never materialized, while for others, it serves as a way keep them nearby and quiet.

Some current and former

has grown as she releases recordings she had surreptitiously made of staff and him, undermining West Wing morale and infuriating Trump, who used incendiary language on Twitter Tuesday, writing "When you give a crazed, crying low-life a break, and give her a job at the White House, I guess it just didn't work out. Good work by General Kelly for quickly firing that dog" The vitriol Trump unleashed, even exceeding his scorn after it was revealed that adviser Steve Bannon was the source of unflattering comments about the president's family in a book earlier this year, stands in stark contrast to the president's promise that he'd "surround myself only with the best and most serious people."

Instead, he hired a staff beset by infighting, a Cabinet besieged by ethical questions and a team of aides working under the shadow of the special counsel's Trump-Russia probe. No administration has experienced such a high rate of senior-staff exits, and for the Trump White House it follows the struggles it had filling the building more 18 months ago. Trump himself fostered a culture in which internal squabbles took priority over the shared agenda — in large part, aides say, because he enjoyed the ensuing drama.

Now he's trying to keep some of it under wraps. The payments to former officials and aides, though likely legal according to experts, raise questions about the blurring lines inside Trump's world and reflect a fondness for secrecy under the threat of his litigation that was part of his profile as both real estate developer and reality TV star. □



In this Feb. 28, 2017 file photo, White House Director of communications for the Office of Public Liaison Omarosa Manigault Newman stands with the of leaders of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) outside the West Wing of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

paign. One-time Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski joined Pence's Great America PAC in May, and former press secretary Sean Spicer was announced in June to replace him as the "senior advisor and spokesman" for pro-Trump super PAC America First Action. Manigault Newman told MSNBC's "Hardball" on Monday: "They told me I could work from home, I didn't have to come in if I didn't want to. ... I could choose between the RNC, America First or the Trump campaign." She says she said no.

Now she has released a book filled with unsavory White House inside stories — Trump says the ones about

his presidential campaign filed an arbitration action against her Tuesday, alleging she had breached a confidentiality agreement she had signed.

The outside groups have also become magnets for Trump backers who were not brought into the administration, like Katrina Pierson and Trump daughter-in-law Lara Trump.

The all-in the-family approach to taking care of stalwarts is nothing new. But the systematic approach with which Trump White House veterans have been offered plush gigs is. According to aides, it reflects a reality that for some the lucrative private sector jobs that are typically available to exiting White House

staffers have struggled to find post-White House jobs — given the conflicted feelings on the Trump administration in Washington — making the campaign or a super PAC an attractive paycheck.

And Trump, despite his reality-television catch-phrase, is loath to fire anyone from his inner circle, preferring to keep receiving their public and private adoration.

"When Gen. Kelly came on board he told me she was a loser & nothing but problems," Trump tweeted about Manigault Newman on Monday. "I told him to try working it out, if possible, because she only said GREAT things about me - until she got fired!"

But the president's venom

Nebraska executes inmate using powerful opioid fentanyl

By GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska carried out its first execution in more than two decades on Tuesday with a drug combination never tried before, including the first use of the powerful opioid fentanyl in a lethal injection.

Carey Dean Moore, 60, was pronounced dead at 10:47 a.m. Moore had been sentenced to death for killing two cab drivers in Omaha in 1979. He was the first inmate to be lethally injected in Nebraska, which last carried out an execution in 1997, using the electric chair.

Witnesses said there appeared to be no complications in the execution process, which also was the first time a state used four drugs in combination. Moore remained mostly still throughout the execution but breathed heavily and gradually turned red and then purple as the drugs were administered.

Media witnesses including The Associated Press saw Moore take short, gasping breaths that became deeper and more labored. His chest heaved several times before it went still. His eyelids briefly cracked open.

At one point while on the gurney, Moore turned his head and mouthed several words to his family, including "I love you."

No members of the victims' families witnessed the execution.

The Department of Correctional Services said the first lethal injection drug was administered at 10:24 a.m. The prison warden lowered a curtain over the media's viewing window at 10:39 a.m. and raised it again about 14 minutes later.

Dawn-Renee Smith, the department's chief of staff, said the curtain was lowered after the execution team notified Department Director Scott Frakes that the last drug had been in-

jected. Smith said Frakes and Acting Warden Robert Madsen waited in the execution room for five minutes to ensure the drugs had taken effect before summoning the county coroner from another part of the prison to confirm Moore's death.

Moore was declared dead at 10:47 a.m. The viewing curtain was lifted again about six minutes later to reveal Moore's body and remained open for 40 seconds.

In his final written statement, Moore admitted: "I am guilty." But he said there are others on Nebraska's death row who he believes are innocent and he said they should be released.

"How might you feel if your loved one was innocent and on death row?" Moore asked.

The execution drew only about a dozen death penalty supporters and protesters who stood in the rain outside the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln. More than 150 people gathered outside the Nebraska Capitol later in the day to protest the execution.

The light turnout stood in contrast to the 1994 execution of Harold Lamont Otey, when more than 1,000 people created a raucous, party-like atmosphere. Otey was executed shortly after midnight in the electric chair, and some in the crowd sang the song "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" after it was announced. Following Otey's punishment, executions were changed to a morning schedule.

Moore's execution comes a



Scott Frakes, left, Director of Nebraska Department of Corrections, delivers a statement after the execution of Carey Dean Moore on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln, Neb.

Associated Press

little more than three years after Nebraska lawmakers abolished the death penalty, only to have it reinstated the following year through a citizen ballot drive partially financed by Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts. The governor, a wealthy former businessman, has said he was fulfilling the wishes of voters in the conservative state.

The Nebraska drug protocol called for an initial IV dose of diazepam, commonly known as Valium, to render the inmate unconscious, followed by the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl, then cisatracurium besylate to induce paralysis and stop the inmate from breathing and potassium chloride to stop the heart.

Diazepam and cisatracurium also had never been used in executions before. According to prosecutors, Moore was 21 when he fatally shot Reuel Van Ness during a robbery with his younger brother, and used the money to buy drugs and pornography. Moore fatally shot Maynard Helgeland by himself five days later, saying he wanted to prove he could take a man's life by himself. Moore was arrested a week later. He was charged and con-

victed of first-degree murder, while his 14-year-old brother was convicted of second-degree murder.

In his statement, Moore also apologized to his brother for dragging him into the robbery and murder.

"I should (have) led him in the right way to go instead of bringing him down, way down," Moore said.

Moore had faced execution dates set by the Nebraska Supreme Court seven times since he was convicted, but each was delayed because of legal challenges and questions over whether previous lethal injection drugs were purchased legally. For some relatives of Moore's victims, that was far too long — and they hope his name and crimes will finally vanish from headlines.

"We're sick of hearing about Carey Dean Moore," Steve Helgeland, one of Maynard Helgeland's three children, said ahead of the execution.

Helgeland said the numerous delays in executing Moore had left him ambivalent.

"There was a point in my life when I probably would have pulled the switch myself, but 39 years has a way of dissipating your anger," he said. □



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Report: Pennsylvania priests molested over 1,000 children

By MARK SCOLFORO and MARC LEVY

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) —

Hundreds of Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania molested more than 1,000 children — and possibly many more — since the 1950s, and senior church officials, including a man who is now the archbishop of Washington, D.C., systematically covered up the abuse, according to a grand jury report released Tuesday.

The real number of abused children might be in the thousands since some secret church records were lost, and victims were afraid to come forward, the grand jury said.

"Church officials routinely and purposefully described the abuse as horseplay and wrestling and inappropriate conduct. It was none of those things. It was child sexual abuse, including rape," Attorney General Josh Shapiro said at a news conference in Harrisburg. The report put the number of abusive clergy at more than 300. In nearly all of the cases, the statute of limitations has run out, meaning that criminal charges cannot be filed. Many of the priests are dead or retired, while others have been dismissed from the priesthood or put on leave.

"We are sick over all the crimes that will go unpunished and uncompensated," the grand jury said. Authorities evaluated each suspect and were able to charge just two, including a priest who has since pleaded guilty. Shapiro said the



In this Sept. 23, 2015, file photo, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, left, looks toward the crowd with Pope Francis following a Mass outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Associated Press

investigation is ongoing. The grand jury accused Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who leads the Washington archdiocese, of helping to protect abusive priests when he was Pittsburgh's bishop. Wuerl, who led the Pittsburgh diocese from 1988 to 2006, disputed the allegations.

"While I understand this report may be critical of some of my actions, I believe the report confirms that I acted with diligence, with concern for the victims and to prevent future acts of abuse," he said in a statement. "I sincerely hope that a just assessment of my actions, past and present, and my continuing commitment to the protection of children will dispel any

notions otherwise made by this report."

The grand jury scrutinized abuse allegations in dioceses that minister to more than half the state's 3.2 million Catholics. Its report echoed the findings of many earlier church investigations around the country in its description of widespread sexual abuse by clergy and church officials' concealment of it.

Most of the victims were boys, but girls were abused, too, the report said.

The abuse ranged from groping and masturbation to anal, oral and vaginal rape. One boy was forced to say confession to the priest who sexually abused him. A 9-year-old boy was forced to perform oral sex

and then had his mouth washed out with holy water. Another boy was made to pose naked as if being crucified and then was photographed by a group of priests who Shapiro said produced and shared child pornography on church grounds.

The grand jury concluded that a succession of Catholic bishops and other diocesan leaders tried to shield the church from bad publicity and financial liability. They failed to report accused clergy to police and sent abusive priests to so-called "treatment facilities," which "laundered" the priests and "permitted hundreds of known offenders to return to ministry," the report said.

The cover-up extended beyond church grounds. The grand jury said it found cases in which police or prosecutors learned of clergy sex abuse allegations but did not investigate out of deference to church officials. The grand jury's report comes at a time of renewed scrutiny and fresh scandal at the highest levels of the U.S. Catholic Church. Pope Francis stripped 88-year-old Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of his title and ordered him to a lifetime of prayer and penance amid allegations that McCarrick had for years sexually abused boys and had sexual misconduct with adult seminarians.

Wuerl has come under harsh criticism over his response to the McCarrick scandal, with some commentators questioning his claims of surprise and ignorance over allegations that McCarrick molested and harassed young seminarians.

Wuerl replaced McCarrick as Washington's archbishop after McCarrick retired in 2006.

The Pennsylvania grand jury, convened by the state attorney general's office in 2016, heard from dozens of witnesses and reviewed more than a half-million pages of internal documents from the Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton dioceses.

The Pittsburgh diocese said a few priests are still in ministry because the diocese determined allegations against them were unsubstantiated. □

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L.A. is first in U.S. to install subway body scanners

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles' subway will become the first mass transit system in the U.S. to install body scanners that screen passengers for weapons and explosives, officials said Tuesday.

The deployment of the portable scanners, which project waves to do full-body screenings of passengers walking through a station without slowing them down, will happen in the coming months, said Alex Wiggins, who runs the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's law enforcement division.

The machines scan for metallic and non-metallic objects on a person's body, can detect suspicious items from 30 feet (9 meters) away and have the capability of scanning more than 2,000 passengers per hour. "We're dealing with persistent threats to our transportation systems in our country," said Transportation Security Administration Administrator David Pekoske. "Our job is to ensure security in the transportation systems so that a terrorist incident does not happen on our watch."

On Tuesday, Pekoske and other officials demonstrated the new machines, which are being purchased from ThruVision, which is headquartered in the United Kingdom.

"We're looking specifically for weapons that have the ability to cause a mass-casualty event," Wiggins said. "We're looking for explosive vests, we're looking for assault rifles. We're not nec-

essarily looking for smaller weapons that don't have the ability to inflict mass casualties."

In addition to the ThruVision scanners, the agency is also planning to purchase other body scanners — which resemble white television cameras on tripods — that have the ability to move around and hone in on specific people and angles, Wiggins said.

"We really want to be effective and we need the ability to have a fixed field of view, but we also need to be able to move that field of view as necessary," Wiggins said. "Deploying these technologies together gives us that accuracy and minimizes any delays." Wiggins would not say how many of the machines were being purchased, but said they would be rolled out in subway stations in the "coming months." Employees and police officers first have to be trained on how to use the equipment. Signs will be posted at stations warning passengers they are subject to body scanner screening. The screening process is voluntary, Wiggins said, but customers who choose not to be screened won't be able to ride on the subway.

But some passengers saw the screening as an added layer of security.

"I guess it is a good, precautionary thing," Andrea Kirsh said, a 22-year-old student from Corvallis, Oregon, who was traveling through Los Angeles' Union Station on Tuesday. "It makes me feel safe. As a civilian I think we often don't know what to look for or what we would be looking for."



An arriving passenger to Union Station in Los Angeles is seen on the ThruVision technology that reveals suspicious objects on people during a Transportation Security Administration demonstration on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

Passengers who rode down an escalator to ride the Metro Red Line at Union Station in Los Angeles on Tuesday were screened as Pekoske and other officials looked on. But after the news conference and media demonstration, officials packed up the equipment and carted it off.

The TSA tested body scanners in New York's Penn Station in February and has also conducted tests at Union Station in Washington, D.C., and at a New Jersey Transit station during

the 2014 Super Bowl.

In December, a Bangladeshi immigrant injured himself by setting off a crude pipe bomb strapped to his chest in a subway passageway near Times Square in New York City. Metro has previously tested several different types of body scanners, including airport-style screening systems where passengers walk through a scanner. The pilot program was meant to evaluate the accuracy and capacity of the portable machines.

About 150,000 passengers ride on Metro's Red Line daily and the subway system counted more than 112 million rides last year, officials said. □



Malta to let rescue boat dock with 141 migrants aboard

By **STEPHEN CALLEJA**
BARRY HATTON

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — Malta on Tuesday agreed to let a private rescue ship dock on the island, with the 141 migrants it is carrying to be distributed among five fellow European Union nations in what was described as a "responsibility-sharing exercise."

The migrants were plucked to safety by the aid boat Aquarius in two separate operations in the Mediterranean Sea off Libya on Friday. The boat was reported to be about 50 kilometers (35 miles) from Malta on Tuesday afternoon when the deal was announced.

"Malta will be making a concession allowing the vessel to enter its ports, despite having no legal obligation to do so," the Maltese government said in a statement.

It said that Malta will serve as a logistical base and that all the migrants aboard will be distributed among France, Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain.

Previously this summer Mal-



In this Aug. 1, 2018 file photo, the French NGO "SOS Mediterranee" Aquarius ship leaves the Marseille harbor, southern France.

ta had allowed another private aid group's rescue vessel to dock, also on condition other nations take the migrants, although in that case Malta also agreed to take some. Malta also noted that on Monday it had rescued 114 persons at sea, with 60

of them destined to go to other EU nations as part of cooperation in the bloc. Aquarius had been waiting for safe harbor after appealing to Italy and Malta. Italy's new populist government is refusing to allow any private rescue ships to dock, saying the coun-

try has done more than its share by allowing some 600,000 rescued migrants to disembark in previous years.

Malta said the dilemma over the fate of the migrants saved by Aquarius was resolved following French-Maltese discussions, and the agreement took shape "with the support of the European Commission" to participate in a "responsibility-sharing exercise." Italy's ruling coalition, which includes an anti-migrant party, has been lobbying for just such cooperation since it took power in June. French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted, thanking Malta "for its humanitarian gesture" and saying France offers its full solidarity. "There's no alternative to cooperation," Macron said. France will take 60 of the migrants, including some from the group rescued by Malta on Monday.

Portugal, which will take 30 from those aboard Aquarius and the other boats, was the first country to say it could take in some of the migrants. Spain agreed to take 60.

Germany said it would take up to 50 of the rescued migrants being brought to Malta.

Operating Aquarius are two French aid groups, SOS Mediterranee and Doc-

tors Without Borders, who said that many aboard are weak and malnourished. Many rescued migrants say they receive scanty rations while detained, often for months, in Libya, awaiting opportunity to depart aboard human traffickers' unseaworthy boats. Sixty-seven of those rescued are unaccompanied minors.

Many aboard Aquarius are originally from Eritrea and Somalia.

Sophie Beau, vice President of SOS Mediterranee's international network, told reporters that both her group and Doctors Without Borders have been warning European authorities for two months of the need for a mechanism to avoid standoffs at sea.

The top EU migration official, Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos, while commending the latest countries to offer to take some of those rescue vessels reaching Malta, he warned that: "We cannot rely on ad-hoc arrangements." Calling for "sustainable solutions," he added that it wasn't the "responsibility of one or a few member states only, but of the European Union as a whole." France's offer Tuesday followed pleas from authorities in Corsica and other French areas on the Mediterranean to help Aquarius. Among them was Jean-Guy Talamoni, president of Corsica's local assembly. "It's time (Europe) wakes up and that everyone takes their share of responsibility," he told BFM-TV. "In the meantime, there are emergency situations, and you have to deal with them." Earlier in the summer, Malta agreed to give safe harbor to a German aid group's vessel Lifeline, but only after agreement that the 234 rescued migrants aboard would be distributed among Italy, Malta and seven other countries. So far 117 of the asylum-seekers have left Malta.

Lifeline's German captain of the Lifeline has pleaded innocent in a Maltese court to charges he entered the island nation's waters illegally and without proper registration. □

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Cars plunge as Italian highway bridge collapses; 20 killed

By COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — A highway bridge collapsed Tuesday in the Italian city of Genoa during a violent storm, sending vehicles plunging 45 meters (nearly 150 feet) into a heap of rubble. Authorities said at least 20 people were killed, although some people were found alive in the debris. A huge section of the Morandi Bridge fell at midday over an industrial zone, sending tons of twisted steel and concrete onto warehouses below. Photos from the Italian news agency ANSA showed a massive gap between two sections of the bridge.

The head of Italy's civil protection agency, Angelo Borrelli, said up to 35 cars and at least three trucks were on the 80-meter (260-foot) section of the span that collapsed.

Hundreds of firefighters and emergency officials were searching for survivors in the rubble with heavy equipment. At least four people were pulled alive from vehicles under the bridge, ANSA reported.

Video of the collapse captured a man screaming: "Oh, God! Oh, God!" Other images showed a green truck that had stopped on the bridge just short of the edge and the tires of a tractor trailer in the rubble. There was confusion over the death toll, which changed several times during the day.

Civil protection authorities said 20 were killed and 16 were injured, at least 10 of them severely, based on multiple verifications from the prefecture's office. But Genoa Mayor Marco Bucci told Sky TG24 that the number of dead was above 25 and that 11 injured were



A view of the Morandi highway bridge after a section of it collapsed, in Genoa, northern Italy, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018.

pulled from the rubble. Two other officials earlier put the toll at 22 dead with 13 injured but said it was expected to rise.

Borrelli told a news conference in Rome that the dead appeared to all have been in vehicles that fell.

One man who was standing under the bridge in front of his truck when the span collapsed called it "a miracle" that he survived. The middle-aged man, who did not give his name, said the shockwave sent him flying over 10 meters (33 feet) into a wall, injuring his right shoulder and hip.

"I was in front of the truck and flew away, like everything else. Yes, I think it's a miracle. I don't know what to say. I'm out of words," he said, walking away from the site.

The disaster occurred on a highway that connects Italy to France, and northern cities like Milan to the beaches of Liguria. The Morandi Bridge connects the A10 highway that goes toward the French Riviera

and the A7 highway that continues north toward Milan. Inaugurated in 1967, it is just over a kilometer (.6 miles) long.

The collapse came on the eve of the Italian summer holiday of Ferragosto, which marks the religious feast of the Assumption of Mary. It's the high point of the season, when most businesses are closed and Italians head to the beaches or the mountains. That means traffic could have been heavier than usual on the Genoa highway.

The design of the bridge has been criticized in the past. Antonio Brencich, a professor specializing in reinforced concrete construction at the University of Genoa, called the span "a failure of engineering" in an interview in 2016.

"That bridge is wrong. Sooner or later it will have to be replaced. I do not know when. But there will be a time when the cost of maintenance will be higher than a replacement," he told Italian media Primoca-

nale.

Other engineers said corrosion or weather conditions could have been part of the cause.

"As this reinforced and prestressed concrete bridge has been there for 50 years, it is possible that corrosion of tendons or reinforcement may be a contributory factor," said Ian Firth, former president of The

Institution of Structural Engineers, a London-based international network. He called the bridge "an unusual design."

Mehdi Kashani, an associate professor in structural mechanics at the University of Southampton in the U.K., said maintenance issues and pressure from "dynamic loads," such as traffic and wind, could have resulted in "fatigue damage in bridge components." Borrelli said highway engineers were checking other parts of the bridge and that some areas were evacuated as a precaution. He said they were still trying to figure out the cause of the collapse.

"You can see there are very big portions of the bridge (that collapsed). We need to remove all of the rubble to ascertain that all of the people have been reached," he said. More than 300 rescue workers and canine crews were on the scene.

"Operations are ongoing to extract people imprisoned below parts of the bridge and twisted metal," he said. □

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UK police treat Parliament crash as terrorism, seek motive

By JILL LAWLESS
DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Police flooded central London streets and cordoned off the city's government district Tuesday, after a speeding car plowed into cyclists and crashed outside Parliament in what authorities were treating as an act of terrorism.

With the driver in custody, counterterror detectives were working to uncover the motive behind what they suspect is the fourth vehicle attack in Britain — and the second on Parliament — in 18 months.

"Given that this appears to be a deliberate act, the method and this being an iconic site, we are treating it as a terrorist incident," Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, Britain's top counterterrorism officer, told reporters. A rooftop camera recorded the silver Ford Fiesta driving past Parliament and suddenly veering sharply to the left, striking cyclists waiting at a set of lights before crossing the road and crashing into a barrier outside Parliament. Armed police surrounded the car within seconds, pulling a man from the vehicle. Police said the driver was alone and no weapons were found in the car. Three people were hurt, none critically.

Police arrested the 29-year-old driver, a resident of England's Midlands region who was not previously known to counterterrorism police or the intelligence services. Basu said the suspect was not cooperating with police.

Security Minister Ben Wallace said the man, whose name was not released, was a British citizen originally from another country. Police said the car was driven from Birmingham in central England to London late Monday and was in central London for more than seven hours before the crash. Detectives were searching two properties in Birmingham and one in another Midlands city, Nottingham. Police said they did not be-



Police cordon off the area on Millbank, in central London, after a car crashed into security barriers outside the Houses of Parliament, in London, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018.

lieve there was any ongoing threat from Tuesday's incident. After a meeting of the government's crisis committee, COBRA, officials said Britain's official terrorism threat level would remain at "severe," meaning an attack is highly likely. It has briefly been raised to the highest level, "critical," after some previous attacks.

Prime Minister Theresa May, who is on vacation in Switzerland, praised "the formidable courage of our emergency services and urged the public 'to remain vigilant — but also to come together and carry on as normal.'"

"The twisted aim of the extremists is to use violence and terror to divide us," May said in a statement. "They will never succeed." Police cars and ambulances flooded London's government district just after 7:30 a.m., after witnesses reported seeing a silver car traveling at high speed hit pedestrians and cyclists, then crash into a barrier designed to protect Parliament from vehicle attack. One injured person was treated at the scene and two were taken to local hospitals, where they were treated and released.

"The car drove at speed into the barriers outside the House of Lords. There was a loud bang from the col-

lision and a bit of smoke," Ewelina Ochab told The Associated Press. "The driver did not get out. The guards started screaming to people to move away."

Police shut the nearby Westminster subway station, and asked people to stay away from the area, which is filled with government offices and major tourist attractions, including Westminster Abbey.

Donovan Parsons, a cameraman for ITV's "Good Morning Britain," was filming outside Parliament when he heard a loud crash.

"I saw the car crashed into the barrier outside Westminster Palace, with smoke coming out of the vehicle. Police were around it, telling people to get back. ... They dragged someone out of the car."

"It didn't look like an accident," said Jason Williams, who lives nearby. "How do you do that by accident?" The early morning scenes brought a sickly sense of déjà vu to many Londoners, whose city has been a target of violent attacks over the decades — from Irish militants, Islamic jihadists and far-right extremists. Last year alone, the city was hit by three deadly attacks. In March 2017, Khalid Masood plowed a car into crowds on Westminster Bridge, killing four people, then fatally stabbed a po-

lice officer before being shot dead in a courtyard outside Parliament.

Less than three months later, a van rammed into pedestrians on London Bridge before three men abandoned the vehicle and attacked weekend revelers in the nearby Borough Market. Eight people were killed and 48 injured.

In June 2017, a far-right extremist drove a van into a crowd of worshippers leaving a London mosque, killing one man and injuring eight others.

That attack followed the suicide bombing a month earlier at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester that killed 22 people.

British authorities say the threat is not diminishing. Since March 2017 they have foiled 13 Islamist-inspired plots and four far-right plots, and currently have 676 live counterterrorism investigations, officials said Tuesday.

This time, there was relief that no one was killed and that there was a quick return to normality. Most of the cordons were lifted by mid-afternoon, apart from a stretch of road right outside Parliament, where forensics officers in blue coveralls collected evidence from the crashed Ford Fiesta. While May and other British politicians expressed sympathy for the victims

and thanks to first responders, U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted that the crash was "another terrorist attack in London."

Trump has a history of tweeting about violence, or alleged violence, in London. He angered many when he said a London hospital was like a war zone because of knife violence. Tuesday's crash raised questions about security at Parliament, which has grown progressively tighter after previous attacks. Concrete and steel barriers protect against vehicle attacks, armed police officers patrol the grounds and visitors undergo airport-style security screening.

Since last year's vehicle attacks, concrete barriers or bollards have been erected along bridges and beside some major roads to prevent cars mounting the sidewalk to hit pedestrians, and there are calls for the street outside Parliament to be closed to traffic.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said authorities would learn lessons from the latest incident.

"Just as the terrorists, the bad guys, evolve and find new ways to kill, to injure, to maim, to divide our communities, the police, the security services, the emergency services evolve and find ways to keep us safe," he said. □



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Activist compares Beijing's rule in Hong Kong to colonialism

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong pro-independence activist decried Beijing's rule over the city as modern-day colonialism in a speech Tuesday to a foreign journalists' association that defied the Chinese government's demand that the event be canceled.

The Chinese government swiftly criticized the talk, saying that freedom of speech in Hong Kong does not extend to discussions of independence for the Chinese city, which it said was a threat to national security. "We express our indignation and condemn it," the Chinese foreign ministry office in Hong Kong said in a statement.

The government's demand raised questions about Beijing's growing influence in the former British colony, which was promised semi-autonomy and freedom of speech as part of the 1997 handover. President Xi Jinping and other officials have warned separatist activity would not be toler-



Pro-independence activist Andy Chan, left, is surrounded by journalists as he leaves Foreign Correspondents Club after delivering his speech in Hong Kong, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

ated. Small groups of pro-Beijing and pro-democracy protesters gathered outside the Foreign Correspondents Club's building in Hong Kong ahead of and during the speech by Andy Chan of the Hong Kong National Party. Some pro-Beijing protesters car-

ried banners saying "Hong Kong independence is poisonous." Current and former Hong Kong leaders have criticized the FCC for hosting Chan, whose party is facing a possible ban on national security grounds. "Sadly, we are a nation that is quickly being an-

nexed and destroyed by China," Chan told the FCC audience. "The cry for Hong Kong independence is therefore a cry against colonial invasion." The Chinese government criticized the FCC for hosting Chan, comparing Hong Kong's pro-independence

advocates with Nazis in Germany and terrorists in the United States. It said governments have the right to restrict expressions of ideas that, it said, threaten social order.

"No country will allow foreign institutions to invite separatist forces on their own land to advocate splitting the country and inciting violent resistance," the statement said. During his talk, Chan said he condemned violence in political action. The 75-year-old FCC has previously hosted politicians and newsmakers, including pro-Beijing speakers, at its clubhouse in central Hong Kong. It says it believes its members and the public have the right "to hear the views of different sides in any debate."

The perception that Beijing is reneging on its promise of semi-autonomy and eroding Hong Kong's free elections and freedom of speech is helping fuel a rising generation of young activists calling for greater autonomy, if not outright independence. □



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In Haiti, slight progress for LGBT rights is seen as victory

By **DAVID CRARY**
Associated Press
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — Yaisah Val recently came out publicly as a transgender woman on YouTube, a potentially risky move in a country like Haiti where LGBT residents face pervasive hostility in most spheres of public life.

Two proposed anti-LGBT laws are pending in Parliament. The major churches are firm in their condemnation of homosexuality. Gay Haitians are frequent targets of attacks and harassment, and police are often unsympathetic to victims of anti-gay violence.

"We told my family beforehand," Val told The Associated Press of her decision to come out. "And they said, 'You're going to be stoned.'"

Instead, Val says she's developed a supportive fan base — many of them straight people and mothers who gratefully view her as a role model for their transgender daughters. Val says she's occasionally recognized on the streets by people who want to be photographed with her. And she recently attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., as part of a delegation trying to strengthen LGBT rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Her situation is indicative of the struggle for LGBT rights in Caribbean nations like Haiti, where incremental progress toward acceptance is seen as a major step in the face of deep-rooted cultural opposition to gays. Val and other ac-



In this Nov. 15, 2015 photo, "Francesca" competes in a gay beauty contest in Grand Goave, Haiti. Associated Press

tivists have been pushing for greater equality and access to education, and have been welcomed into some broader civil-society initiatives, including events supported by Haiti's first lady.

They also realize it's an uphill fight in a country with a strong anti-gay stigma — contributing to an HIV prevalence rate among gay men that's nine times higher than for the adult population as a whole.

The SEROVie Foundation, a 20-year-old organization providing free HIV treatment and prevention services for LGBT Haitians, says many gay and bisexual men avoid seeking care because they fear mistreatment or disclosure of personal details. Executive director Reginald Dupont said several men had com-

mitted suicide in the city of Jeremie after their HIV status was publicly revealed.

As a precaution against harassment, there's no exterior sign identifying the foundation's main clinic in Port-au-Prince — a two-story building in a neighborhood housing several international organizations.

The complex includes an emergency shelter in the rear courtyard where victims of anti-gay violence and harassment can stay for up to two weeks.

It was busy last year, staffers said, when debate in the Senate over anti-gay laws triggered a spate of attacks.

According to the latest figures from UNAIDS — the United Nations agency that fights HIV and AIDS — about 2.1 percent of all Haitian adults are living

with HIV, while prevalence rate among gay and bisexual men is 18.2 percent.

The overall HIV prevalence rate, though still among the highest in the Western Hemisphere, is down sharply from a decade ago. UNAIDS says new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths have both decreased by about 25 percent since 2010.

However, further progress will be difficult without addressing the persistently high infection rate among gays and bisexuals, said Dr. Jean William Pape, who founded Haiti's largest HIV/AIDS organization in 1982 and also teaches at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.

Anti-gay bias is prevalent even among health care providers, said Pape, who recounted how one of his

senior staff members complained about the flamboyant appearance of some gay men.

"I told him, 'They can look the way they want. Our job is to provide care,'" Pape said.

Among the 1,089 respondents in the nationwide survey, 90 percent rejected the idea of equal rights for LGBT people and 75 percent said Haiti should ban gays and lesbians from entering the country.

"The results were not encouraging," Outarra said.

Given that background, it's striking that Haiti's most prominent LGBT activist, while dismayed at the hostility, is hopeful about the future.

"More and more young people, bringing their skills, are getting engaged in our fight," said Charlot Jeudy, president of Kouraj, Haiti's leading LGBT-rights group. Jeudy founded the group in 2011, seeking to counter anti-gay sentiment that intensified after the previous year's devastating earthquake.

Prior to Kouraj's founding, Haiti's LGBT community remained largely underground because of social stigma, even though there are no laws criminalizing homosexual relations as there are in several English-speaking Caribbean nations.

Two years ago, an LGBT cultural festival in Port-au-Prince was canceled after organizers received threats and a local official, calling it a violation of moral values, sought to ban it. □

LOCAL



Lui bee farm Aruba



ORANJESTAD — Honey bees wild and domestic perform about 80 percent of all pollination worldwide. A single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers each day. Grains are primarily pollinated by the wind, but fruits, nuts and vegetables are pollinated by bees. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops — which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition — are pollinated by bees.

Seeing the importance of saving the bees Aruba is not staying behind. We have many people interested in saving and protecting these bees. Many are practicing Apiculture which consists of saving and protecting the bees with the sole purpose to produce honey locally. One of these persons is the very well-known on the island Mr. Luis Winterdaal, founder of Lui Bee Farm Aruba.

Luis Winterdaal was born and raised in Aruba on October 10th 1954 in the city of Savaneta. A person

with great love for the nature and all animals. Luis started working with bees when he was only 15 years old. At that time there were no special equipment to use when working with bees such as face masks and smokers. Luis used to make his own face protection equipment from wired screens sewed to a t-shirt. He also cut out the legs of his jeans to use them to protect his arms and as smoker he used cookie cans.

11 Years ago Luis met 3 young people who love bees and saw the importance that these bees have for the humanity. Giles, Jourdan and Suyen. With much passion and all the patience in the world Luis taught these 3 youngsters everything they needed to know about bees. From there started the idea of the farm. To save and protect these bees. They all try to demonstrate and teach the people of Aruba the importance these bees have. Their vision is to save as much bees as possible from being killed. For more

than 45 years Luis has been helping our people of Aruba to solve any type of bee problems at their homes. Luis together with Giles, Jourdan and Suyen have been all over the island bringing their passion and knowledge in order to save these bees.

Organic honey:

At Lui Bee farm Aruba they have special bee boxes which are filled with bees that were rescued from different houses and locations all around the island. Not always when rescuing bees you will find honey. Sometimes you will find the wax with only baby bees and if you are lucky you will find wax filled with honey.

The honey from the boxes at their location are not being emptied every time why? Because of the lack of rain on the island, most of the time it's very dry and this can be very stressful for the bees. Why the stress? Because they have to make new wax and also in such dry period they use honey to feed themselves to survive.

Honey that they produce and sell at their farm does not contain any chemicals. Their honey goes directly from the wax to the bottles. The whole process takes place at their own facility. They encounter all types of color of honey on the island from light to black honey. Since they depend very much on the water/rain for these bees to survive the production of see is not consistent. Lui Bee Farm wishes to someday be able to produce enough honey to distribute to the whole island. Honey is very beneficial for your overall health and is very important for the human being. Honey products are daily used for as medicine and in many beauty products.

Most of the time bees rescued from houses are in swarm or have been there for years. Common places to find bees are: under the roof, on the roof, ceiling, in trees, in tires, on the walls, bird cages, under containers even in septic tanks anywhere you can think of is possible. They have even been called several times at hotels to remove hives from a bedroom or from the rooftop.

At Lui Bee Farm they know how important these bees are for our environment therefore when assisting at removing these hives they will stay there until they find the 'queen'. Who naturally is the most important for the production of the honey. Whenever they find her their job is done.

According to Luis bees in Aruba are not aggressive. If you leave them alone and don't disturb them they won't attack you. Therefore Lui Bee Farm kindly requests you to help the bees by putting water around the house. Especially during dry seasons. These bees need as much flowers and water as possible in order to survive. Please do not kill them!! To Lui Bee Farm a world without bees is like a dessert without food!!

For more information call them at 593-6694, email luibeefarmaruba@gmail.com or check their Facebook page Lui bee farm aruba or follow them on Instagram @luibeefarmaruba. □



A.T.A. first 7 months of 2018: 2% more visitors and 12.7% higher RevPar

ORANJESTAD – Aruba welcomed a total of 641,763 'stay-over' visitors during the first 7 months of 2018. This is 2% (+12,748 visitors) more compared to same period of 2017. If we exclude visitors from Venezuela, you will see an increase of 6.6% (+38,102 visitors) which equals a total of 619,596 visitors to our island. These numbers indicate an increase in key markets for Aruba such as USA, Canada, Brazil and Holland. For the month of July Aruba received a total of 101,386 stay-over visitors, which is 0.9% (-886) less compared to same month last year. Excluding visitors from Venezuela, you will see this is 4.7% (4,368 visitors) more which equals to 96,743 visitors for the month of July for 2018.

'Stay-over' Tourism

Aruba is being represented in 3 different continents. Compared to July 2017, for 2018 tourism from North America increased with 4.4% (+3,086 visitors/total 72,611 visitors) and brought 71.6% of the total for tourism to our destination. In July, USA increased to 4.6% (+3,066 visitors/total 69,899

visitors) and Canada increased with 0.7% (+20 visitors/total 2,712 visitors) compared to same month in 2017. From January to July 2018, Norte America increased and brought 486,244 visitors to Aruba, which is an increase of 7.5% (+33,859 visitors).

The Latin American Continent decreased with 20.9% (-4,404 visitors/total 16,697 visitors) in which Venezuela decreased with a 53.1% (- 5,254 visitors/total 4,643 visitors) compared to July of last year. Colombia increased with 20.7% (+681 visitors /total 3,975 visitors) and Brazil increased with 15.2% (+247 visitors/total 1,876 visitors). The Latin American Continent brought 16.5% of the total of tourism for the month of July for 2018 for our island. From January till July 2018, Latin America brought a total of 87,448 visitors for Aruba, which equals to 20% (-21,798 visitors) less compared to same period of last year.

For what Europe concerns a decrease in tourism can be noticed of 5.7% (-491 visitors/total 8,182 visitors)

less compared with the same month of last year. United Kingdom decreased with 46.4% (-1,262 visitors/total 1,460 visitors). As already informed earlier due to the so called 'BREXIT' in England, TUI was forced to cancel one of the charter flights from this destination to Aruba. Noticeable is that the decrease of 7,500 seats and the fall of the United Kingdom market this has been compensated with the increase from the other countries. The majority comes from the 7th additional flight per week of KLM which A.T.A. managed to confirm November of last year. Besides, TUI Netherlands increased their amount of seats to Aruba so that A.T.A. Europe can continue its contribution to increase the high quality tourism to our destination.

Other countries in Europe: Netherlands increased with 4.1% (+142 visitors/total 3,577 visitors) and Germany remained 'flat' with 7.7% 0.3% (+1 visitors/total 362 visitors). However we can notice an increase from Italy with 40.6% (+277 visitors/total 960 visitors). The European Continent represented

8.1% of tourism for Aruba for the month of July 2018. From January till July 2018, Europe brought 46,913 visitors to Aruba, which is 2.9% (-1,420 visitors) less compared to same period last year.

Tourism Cruise

During July 2018, 46,370 cruise passengers visited our destination aboard a total of 16 different cruise ships. Compared with month of July last year, cruise tourism increased with 45.4% (+14,482 visitors/cruise): in July 2017 Aruba had 31,888 visitors from 14 cruises. That is 2 cruise ships more compared to last year. From January to July 2018, a total of 483,615 cruise passengers visited Aruba (an increase of 3.6% +16,590 passengers more) aboard a total of 198 different cruise ships (an increase of 0.5% :1 cruise ship more).

Tourism Receipts / Central Bank of Aruba

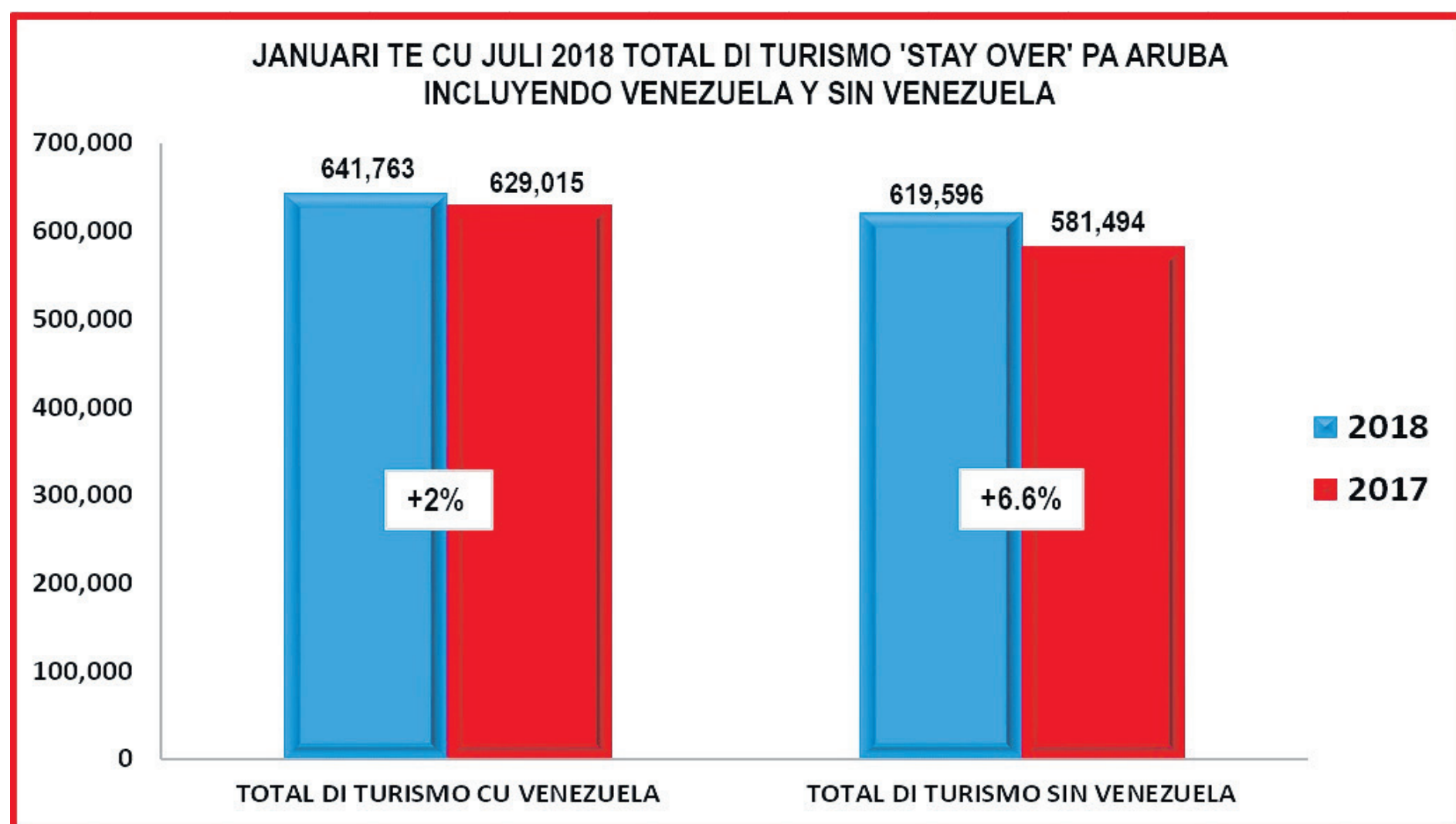
According to the Central Bank the so called 'Tourism Receipts' for 2017 contributed to 3,078.5 Million florins to our economy, which is a 6.5% increase compared to

the same season in 2016.

Hotels / AHATA

According to Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association for the month of July 2018, the 'Average daily Rate' (ADR) has increased with 15.5 % compared to July 2017 – US\$ 216.09 in 2017 compared to US\$ 249.52 in 2018. From January till July 2018, the ADR increased with 10.4% which equals to US\$ 282.24. The revenue per available room, the so called RevPar increased to 11.8%- US\$ 190.50 in July 2017 to US\$ 213.05 in July 2018. The occupancy room per night (ORN) increased with 1.7% for the month of July 2018. The occupancy room per night (ORN) for the first 7 months of 2018 increased with 1.9%.

Numbers provided by AHATA for the first 4 months of 2018 are based on 14 properties including Holiday Inn Resort and the majority of the hotels with the exception of Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino. From May 2018 the numbers are based on 13 properties excluding Holiday Inn Resort. □



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15 August is Relaxation Day

Slow down... breath, and relax. Relaxation Day is all about winding down and just taking it easy. If you're lucky enough to have the day off work, enjoy a quiet morning watching TV from the sofa, and perhaps consider some light gardening in the afternoon – all in the spirit of relaxing!

Relaxation Day is a reminder that sometimes it is okay to take a deep breath, slow down and take it easy - not only does relaxation make you feel better about yourself, it can have long-term health benefits too! So on this day, do things that help you relax and de-stress. Kick back and enjoy a cold beverage in your backyard, read a book while curled up with a hot cup of tea, sleep the whole day long, or take a warm bath and spend the day in your pajamas watching TV.

Origin

The origins of this holiday are unknown, though it is thought that the holiday began as National Slacker Day in Britain. In the hustle bustle of their daily lives, most people often forget to slow down and take some time for themselves. This can create stress and other stress-related health

issues like high blood pressure and heart problems.

How to Celebrate?

- Relax! Do whatever that you feel relaxes you, even if it is for a short while.
- Use this day to do a digital detox. Unplug the computer, put away

the phone and stay away from all social media. With no work emails to fret over and no social dramas to be bothered with, you will feel the stress melt away.

- Go to the spa for a day of pampering and some "me" time.

- Take a leisurely walk in the park. Stop and smell the roses, walk barefoot on the grass, have a small picnic by yourself, or read a book while people-watching.
- Learn a new skill like knitting or playing golf, are enjoy one of our beautiful beaches. ☐



Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 15

Grab a bite by the beach

- Enjoy a breathtaking sunset and the tastiest bites at Aruba's Hottest Spot for Delicious food & drinks Pure Ocean. An open-air restaurant that features modern white decor with cool breezes and an island atmosphere
- From 6 PM till 10 PM
- PureOcean at Divi Aruba Phoenix
- Facebook Divi Aruba Phoenix



Thursday 16

Chasing Coral

- The University of Aruba & Aruba International Regatta, proudly presents Chasing Coral THE "2017 Sundance Film Festival AUDIENCE AWARD: U.S. Documentary" WINNER
- From 7 PM till 10 PM
- University of Aruba, J. Irausquinplein 4, oranjestad
- Facebook Chasing Coral

Friday 17

Aruba International Regatta

- Sailors of all ages and all classes come together for the annual Aruba international regatta. Join the 10th edition of the Aruba International Regatta for spectacular Yacht Races, Sunfish Races, Beach Cat Races, Optimist Races, F11 races, Miniature Boat Races, Beach Parties and much more
- From 7:30 PM till 9:30 PM
- Surfside Beach
- Facebook Aruba international Regatta



Saturday 18

Honor to Connor

- Enjoy a night of steelband music celebrating Connor's legacy Culture and heritage. A complete steelband celebration.
- From 7 PM TILL 9 PM
- Amphi Theatre Mr. Edgar Connor, Paseo Herencia Mall
- Facebook Paseo Herencia Mall



Sunday 19

Asi es mi Peru

- Imagine to be in Peru at a marketplace with authentic craftsmanship, ceviche made table-side at the patio, and a more formal fare in the restaurant
- From 12 PM – 10 PM
- Paradise Beach Villas



- Facebook Asi es mi Peru

Monday 20

Caribbean Linked V Black Box Artist Talks

- The Black Box Artist Talks are not typical lectures; beyond their educational value, these presentations are unique in that they create a rare chance to engage with artists, writers and curators from ten different Caribbean countries in one communal setting. Each of the residents' home countries share similarities and histories. Artist for this night are Miguel Lopez (Peru/Costa Rica) Elvis Lopez (Aruba)
- From 7 PM
- Ateliers '89, Oranjestad
- Facebook Ateliers '89



Tuesday 21

Soul & Mantra Singing

- Hosted by Gea Sougé Life Coaching. Very empowering to use your voice authentically. Afterwards your heart and soul are always humming like a humming bird. Intuitively I will share the mantra's and soul songs. Besides my shamanic drum some other small instruments will be used but our most powerful instrument being our voices. No need to



have singing experience nor do you or your family have to admire your voice. This type of singing is intended to open your heart, go within and find what likes to be heard.

- From 7 PM
- Eagle Beach
- Facebook Ateliers '89

Aruba's Chasing Coral Screening & Ocean Care Info Evening

ORANJESTAD — The University of Aruba together with Aruba International Regatta and VisitAruba.com presents in collaboration with Aruba Reef Care Foundation and AHATA Environmental Committee. Aruba's free screening of the Netflix Original Documentary, Chasing Coral, & Ocean Environment Info Evening' event.

Chasing Coral taps into the collective will and wisdom of an ad man, a self-proclaimed coral nerd, top-notch camera designers, and renowned marine biologists as they invent the first time-lapse camera to record bleaching events as they happen. Unfortunately, the effort is anything but simple, and the team doggedly battles technical malfunctions and the force of nature in pursuit of their golden fleece: documenting the indisputable and tragic transformation below the waves. With its breathtaking photography, nail-biting suspense, and startling emotion, Chasing Coral is a dramatic revelation that won't have audiences sitting idle for long. Chasing Coral is celebrating ONE YEAR since their worldwide launch! With

the release of the film, they have witnessed communities across the globe connect the story of our reefs to action in powerful ways. One screening at the time, they have reached millions worldwide and put the coral story in the headlines. From business and community leaders to artists and grassroots activists, Chasing Coral has empowered others to use film to accelerate change in their communities: A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to document and reveal how the oceans are changing.

HIGHLIGHTS for this event:

- Chasing Coral is THE "2017 Sundance Film Festival AUDIENCE AWARD: U.S. Documentary" WINNER
- Father-Daughter team, Castro & Veronica Perez, will be present on behalf of Aruba Reef Care Foundation with insights on Aruba's own ocean care
- Concerned Captain of Tranquilo Charters Aruba will also be part of it
- Anthony Hagedorn Representative of the Dutch Marines Mariniers Kazerne Savaneta
- Eric Mijts: President Aruba Regatta Foundation



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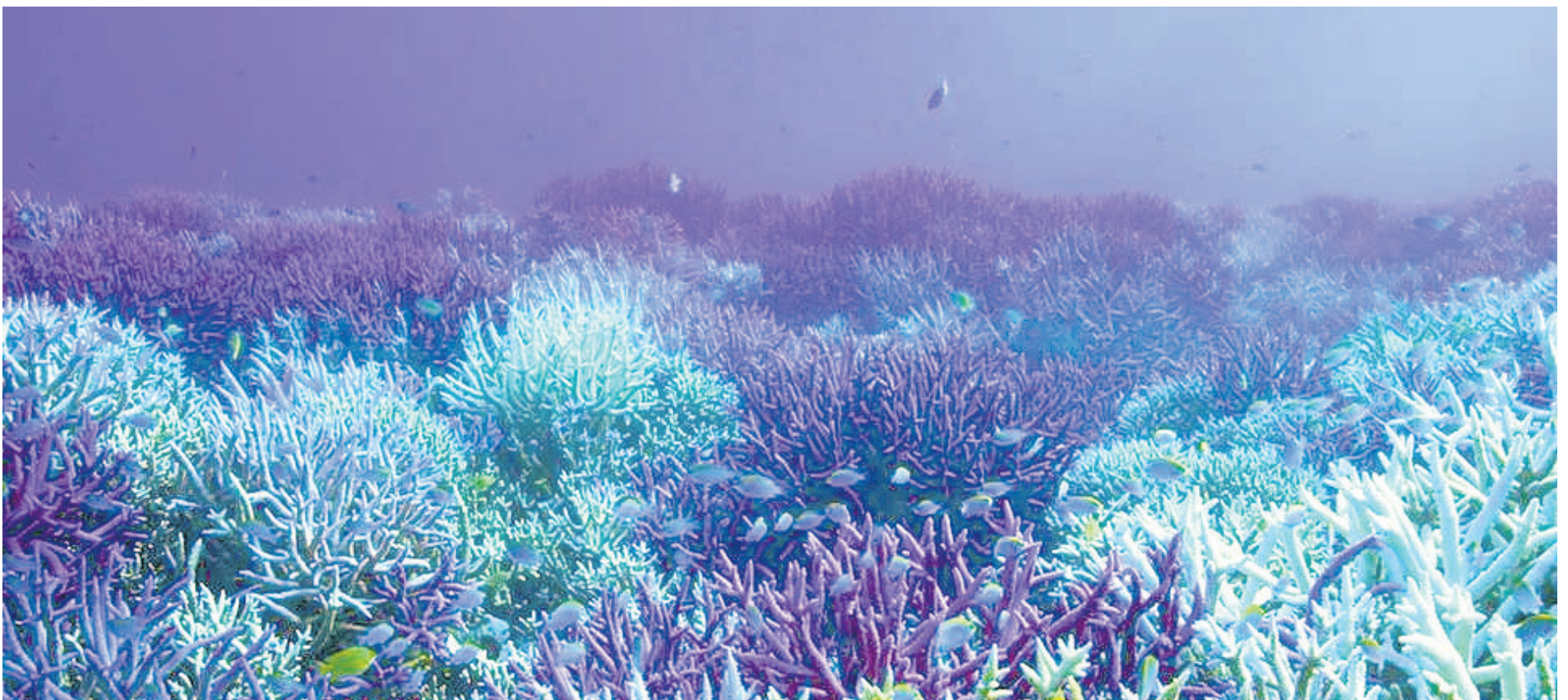
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- University of Aruba
- AHATA Environmental Committee

This event will take place on Thursday August 16, from 7 PM till 9 PM at University of Aruba. J. Irausquinplein 4,

Oranjestad. For more info visit their Facebook page Chasing Coral. [Facebook](#)



SPORTS



Cleveland Browns quarterback Tyrod Taylor throws a pass during NFL football training camp Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, in Berea, Ohio.

Associated Press

Free agent Dez Bryant to visit receiver-thin Cleveland

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Dez Bryant's going to meet with the Browns. Depending on how things go, he could stay awhile.

The free agent wide receiver has scheduled a visit with Cleveland on Thursday, and the anticipated stopover could lead to the three-time Pro Bowler signing with a team craving more playmakers.

Bryant, who released by the Dallas Cowboys in April after eight seasons, has shown previous interest in joining the Browns. Last week, Bryant posted on Twitter that he intended to speak with the team and a Browns spokesman confirmed the sides will talk later this week.

But while Bryant would certainly be a talent upgrade for a team coming off a 0-16 season, Browns coach Hue Jackson said it's vital to make sure he fits with Cleveland's culture.

"It's not just a given," Jackson said following Tuesday's practice.

Continued on Page 22

"ACUNA MATATA"



Acuna homers leading off both games of DH

Atlanta Braves left fielder Ronald Acuna Jr. (13) blows a bubble as he rounds the bases after hitting a home run in the first inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader against the Miami Marlins Monday, Aug. 13, 2018 in Atlanta.

Associated Press
Page

Williams wins Cincinnati opener; Murray first-round victim

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Serena Williams bounced back from the most lopsided loss of her career, cruising past Daria Gavrilova 6-1, 6-2 at the Western & Southern Open on Monday.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam winner who returned to the tour this year after the birth of her first child, needed just 65 minutes to dispatch Gavrilova. She'll face eighth-seeded Petra Kvitova in Tuesday's second round.

"You've got to be able to go back-to-back," said Williams, a two-time Cincinnati champion. "I don't get byes anymore right now. I'm OK with it."

Williams lost to Johanna Konta 6-1, 6-0 in San Jose, California, before withdrawing from last week's Rogers Cup in Montreal.

Tenth-seeded Novak Djokovic regrouped after blowing a 3-0 second-set lead to get past Steve Johnson, 6-4, 7-6 (4). The reigning Wimbledon champion failed to convert eight match points before he finally put Johnson away. Wild card Stan Wawrinka, working his way back from two left knee surgeries, advanced with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win over 12th-seeded Diego Schwartzman.

In Monday's final match, unseeded Alize Cornet stunned 11th-seeded Jelena Ostapenko 1-6, 7-5, 6-0. Earlier Monday, Andy Murray lost to Lucas Pouille 6-1, 1-6, 6-4, clearing another obstacle for Roger Federer in this U.S. Open tuneup.

Top-seeded Rafael Nadal dropped out Sunday night to prepare for the U.S. Open after winning his fifth title of the year in Toronto. Murray had his best result since missing 11 months following hip surgery when he reached the quarterfinals in Washington two weeks ago. But he had a hard time adjusting to the Cincinnati courts.

"The start of the match was not good," he said. "It was a pretty bad first set. After that, it was a little better."

Federer, seeded second, has won in Cincinnati a record seven times but hasn't played here since winning

in 2015. In 2016, he had a knee injury and in 2017 he had back problems.

"Cincinnati has always been a good tournament for me," said Federer, the reigning Australian Open champion. "I was sad not to play here last year, and two years ago there wasn't a chance. I'm glad to be back."

Even with the top-ranked Nadal missing, Federer liked the strength of this field, especially with Murray and Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic having recovered from injuries.

"That's why you have such a good, exciting draw," Federer said before Murray's match was over. "It's a pity Rafa isn't playing. He would have added massively to that part of the draw."

Grigor Dimitrov, the defending champion who is seeded fifth, was not entirely upset about Nadal's absence. "When Rafa is missing, he's missed, not so much by the players as much as the fans," he said. "All joking aside, I love spending time with Rafa and practicing with him and playing with him. I would be the last person to say I wouldn't want to play with him."

Monday's first full day of main-draw competition opened with 13th-seeded Madison Keys holding off Bethanie Mattek-Sands 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4 to reach the second round. Wild-card Victoria Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champion, also came from behind to beat Carla Suarez Navarro 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4.

Tenth-seeded Julia Goerges was losing to Kristina Mladenovic 6-4, 3-2 when she retired because of a lower left leg injury. Advancing were Annett Kontaveit, Aryna Sabalenka, Lesia Tsurenko, wild card Svetlana Kuznetsova, and qualifiers Rebecca Peterson, Ajia Tomjanovic, Viktoria Kuzmova.

On the men's side, Sam Querrey ground out a 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5) win over fellow American and ninth-seeded John Isner. Querrey gained an edge with a mini-break on the fifth



Serena Williams serves to Daria Gavrilova, of Australia, in the first round at the Western & Southern tennis Open, Monday, Aug. 13, 2018, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

point of the second tie-breaker when Isner sailed a forehand wide of the backhand sideline. Querrey closed out the 2-hour, 7-minute match with an

ace that survived a challenge by Isner.

Kei Nishikori beat Andrey Rublev 7-5, 6-3, and 13th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta topped Richard Gas-

quet 6-3, 2-6, 6-3. Other winners were Leonardo Mayer, Jeremy Chardy, Benoit Paire, Peter Gojowczyk, Denis Shapovalov and qualifier Bradley Klahn. □

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Lowrie drives in 4 to back Manaea, A's hold off Mariners 7-6

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jed Lowrie drove in four runs to back Sean Manaea, and Oakland held off a late Seattle rally in a matchup of AL West contenders.

Manaea (11-8) pitched into the eighth and bounced back from a season-low 2 2/3 innings against the Dodgers his last time out.

Second-place Oakland moved 2 1/2 games ahead of the Mariners, who had momentum coming off a four-game sweep at first-place and defending World Series champion Houston.

The idle Astros had their lead trimmed to two games over the A's.

Seattle loaded the bases with none out in the ninth on three walks by Jeurys Familia before Blake Treinen relieved. He allowed a run on a wild pitch and two more on Mitch Haniger's single before closing it out for his 31st save.

Nelson Cruz struck out to end it with runners on first and second.

Matt Chapman hit a two-run double in the sixth, his third double of the game. That matched the Oakland record he last accomplished on June 12 against Houston.

Manaea gave up two runs in 7 2/3 innings as the A's moved a season-high 23 games above .500.

Marco Gonzales (12-8) allowed four runs and eight hits over five innings. He lost his third straight start after winning five in a row.

Seattle's Robinson Cano is scheduled to return Tuesday from his 80-game suspension for violating baseball's drug agreement.

METS 8, YANKEES 5

NEW YORK (AP) — Jacob deGrom struck out 12 and the New York Mets backed him in a big way, hitting five home runs while battering Luis Severino and the Yankees.

Amed Rosario led off this Subway Series matchup with a drive into the right-field seats and Jose Bautista, Todd Frazier, Brandon Nimmo and Michael Conforto later connected. The club's best power show since June 2017 sent chants



Oakland Athletics' Jed Lowrie waits for the ball to tag out Seattle Mariners' Jean Segura, right, in the first inning of a baseball game Monday, Aug. 13, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

of "Let's go, Mets!" bouncing all around Yankee Stadium.

Hurt by poor run support most of the season, deGrom (7-7) threw 6 2/3 innings and left with a major league-best 1.81 ERA. He allowed two earned runs and exited with a 7-3 lead. Severino (15-6) was gone a lot earlier. Stuck in a rut that began before he pitched in the All-Star Game, the right-hander was tagged for seven hits and four runs in four innings.

Miguel Andujar hit a two-run homer in the Yankees eighth off Seth Lugo. Robert Gsellman worked the ninth for his seventh save. The city rivals split their six games this year. This was a makeup from a rainout July 22.

RANGERS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Bartolo Colon won his first start since setting the record for victories by a Latin American pitcher, going five innings to help Texas beat Arizona.

Robinson Chirinos hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the fourth to end Zack Greinke's streak of nine straight starts allowing two runs or fewer. Chirinos added an

RBI single in the eighth.

Colon (7-10) retired 10 consecutive batters after allowing run-scoring doubles by A.J. Pollock and Steven Souza Jr. in the first. The 45-year-old Dominican right-hander got his 247th career win, two more than Dennis Martinez of Nicaragua.

Ronald Guzman also homered off Greinke (12-8), who allowed six hits and four runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Colon gave up four hits and three runs while setting a Texas record with his

22nd straight start with two or fewer walks. He has won both his starts in August after losing all five in July.

Jose Leclerc earned his second save.

ROYALS 3, BLUE JAYS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Ryan O'Hearn homered and drove in a career-high three runs, Brad Keller threw seven strong innings and Kansas City beat Toronto to spoil Sean Reid-Foley's major league debut.

Reid-Foley (0-1) was removed after allowing three runs in five innings. He is only

the second player in major league history to be born in Guam.

O'Hearn, a rookie who entered batting .130 with three RBIs, homered off Reid-Foley with Brett Phillips aboard in the second. O'Hearn also walked with the bases loaded in the fourth.

Whit Merrifield had three hits as the Royals got their second victory in 11 games. Keller (5-5) yielded one run and four hits. Willy Peralta closed for his seventh save. Devon Travis homered early for the Blue Jays.

TIGERS 9, WHITE SOX 5

DETROIT (AP) — Nicholas Castellanos had a career-high five hits, including a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning, and drove in five runs as Detroit beat Chicago.

Castellanos singled in the first, doubled and scored in the fourth, hit an RBI double in the fifth and hit a two-run homer off Jeanmar Gomez (0-1) in the seventh. It was the sixth five-RBI game of his career, including one against the White Sox on June 16.

Castellanos came up again in the eighth with the bases loaded and two outs, needing a triple for the cycle, but settled for a two-run single that put the Tigers ahead 9-5.

Louis Coleman (4-1) got the win with a scoreless inning of relief. The Tigers are 9-1 against the White Sox this season. □

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Braves' Acuna leads off each half of doubleheader with HR

ATLANTA (AP) — Ronald Acuna Jr. pulled off one of the rarest feats in baseball history, hitting leadoff homers in both games of a doubleheader to send the first-place Atlanta Braves to a sweep of the Miami Marlins on Monday.

The 20-year-old rookie hit an opposite-field drive into the Braves' bullpen in Game 1, powering Atlanta to a 9-1 victory.

Haitian-American Touki Toussaint (1-0) pitched six strong innings to win his major league debut.

It was more of the same from Acuna in the nightcap. He sent a towering shot into the seats in left-center, sparking the Braves to a 6-1 victory behind another strong outing on the mound from Mike Foltynewicz (10-7).

Acuna appeared to be only the fourth player in big league history to hit a pair of leadoff homers in a doubleheader.

Merandy Gonzalez (2-1) took the loss in the second game after being called up from Double-A Jacksonville for his first career start. Acuna hit his first leadoff homer off Pablo Lopez (2-3) and added a two-run double in the sixth, highlighting a five-run outburst that turned the game into a blowout.

CARDINALS 7, NATIONALS 6
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Paul DeJong handed Washington its second straight walk-off loss, capping a back-and-

forth finish with a game-ending solo homer in the ninth inning for St. Louis.

DeJong took Koda Glover (0-1) deep on a 3-1 pitch. A night earlier, Ryan Madson allowed a game-ending grand slam in the ninth to the Chicago Cubs' David Bote to end a 4-3 defeat.

Matt Carpenter kicked off a wild ending with a three-run, go-ahead homer during a four-run eighth inning for the Cardinals. It was his 17th homer during a 31-game on-base streak. Carpenter has homered in seven of his past 10 games. Washington tied it at 6 in the top of the ninth on RBI singles by Daniel Murphy and Matt Wieters off closer Bud Norris.

Dakota Hudson (3-0) stranded two runners.

Jedd Gyorko sparked St. Louis' big eighth inning with a homer off Justin Miller. Jose Martinez had four hits for the Cardinals.

Washington's injury-depleted bullpen has blown saves in three of its past four games. Juan Soto and Bryce Harper homered for the Nationals, who have lost five of seven.

GIANTS 5, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pinch-hitter Nick Hundley delivered a two-run single in the ninth inning to give San Francisco its first lead, and the Giants handed Los Angeles' bullpen its fourth consecutive loss.

This time, the Dodgers wasted a masterful start by



Atlanta Braves left fielder Ronald Acuna Jr. (13) drives in a run with a single in the sixth inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader against the Miami Marlins Monday, Aug. 13, 2018 in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Clayton Kershaw, who held the Giants to one run on eight singles in a marquee matchup with San Francisco ace Madison Bumgarner.

Hundley's two-out single put the Giants ahead 3-2. Gorkys Hernandez singled in another run, and San Francisco scored one more on an error by Max Muncy. All the runs came against Scott Alexander (2-1), the latest Dodgers reliever to struggle in the absence of closer Kenley Jansen.

Ray Black (2-1) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Will Smith earned his ninth save. Kershaw struck out nine and did not walk a batter, lowering his ERA against the Giants to 1.58 in 43 career starts. He also drove in the game's first run with a bloop double.

Justin Turner homered off Bumgarner, who permitted two runs in six innings. It was the 11th time Kershaw and

Bumgarner have faced each other, the most of any two active pitchers.

INDIANS 10, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jose Ramirez connected for his 35th homer and Yandy Diaz hit a tiebreaking double in Cleveland's seven-run sixth inning against Cincinnati. Ramirez, Michael Brantley and Yan Gomes had three hits apiece as the Indians won for the fifth time in six games. Melky Cabrera and Jason Kipnis each drove in two runs.

The Indians increased their AL Central lead to 12 1/2 games over Minnesota after receiving an update from team president Chris Antonetti on the status of outfielder Leonys Martin, who is recovering from a life-threatening bacterial infection. Martin is in stable condition at the Cleveland Clinic.

Tucker Barnhart, Scooter Gennett and Curt Casali

homered for the last-place Reds. Homer Bailey (1-10) was tagged for five runs and 10 hits in 5 1/3 innings. Mike Clevinger (8-7) walked six in five innings, but got his first win since July 1.

ANGELS 6, PADRES 3, 10 INNING

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Kole Calhoun hit a tiebreaking double in the 10th inning and Justin Upton added a two-run homer to cap a four-run rally that carried Los Angeles past San Diego.

Jose Briceno homered early for the Angels, who got 7 1/3 solid innings from starter Andrew Heaney. Upton robbed pinch-hitter Eric Hosmer of a go-ahead homer in the eighth, making a catch above the left-field wall to leave Hosmer with a tying sacrifice fly.

Blake Parker gave up a solo homer to Hosmer in the bottom half. Cam Bedrosian (4-2) got the win. □

Fernando Alonso will leave Formula 1 at end of season

By JENNA FRYER

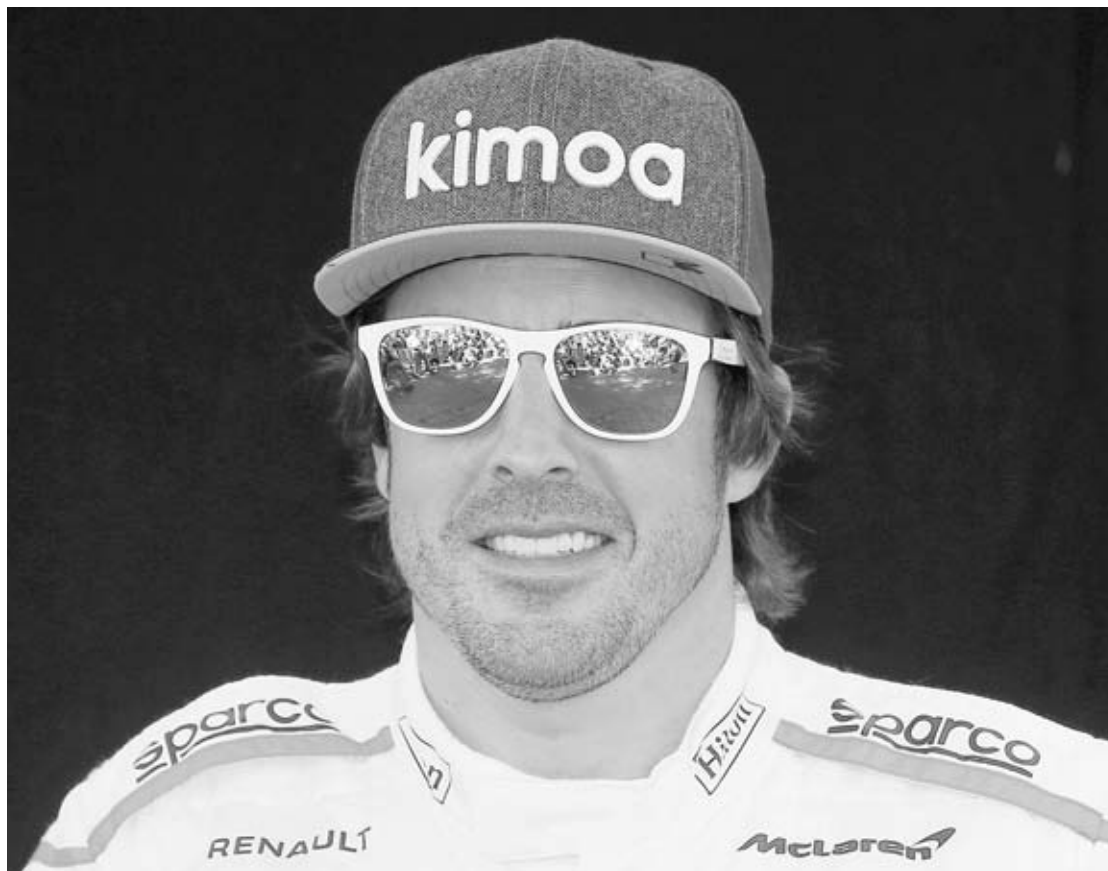
Two-time champion Fernando Alonso will leave Formula One at the end of the season and potentially move to IndyCar in the United States.

McLaren Racing confirmed Tuesday the Spaniard will not return to F1 next year for an 18th season, and Alonso said F1's leadership group tried to convince him to stay with the series.

"I made this decision some months ago and it was a firm one," Alonso said in a statement. "Nevertheless, I would like to sincerely thank Chase Carey and Liberty Media for the efforts made to change my mind and everyone who has contacted me during this time."

There's been lengthy speculation that McLaren will enter IndyCar with Alonso as one of its drivers. Alonso ran the Indianapolis 500 a year ago and was in position to win the race until his engine failed.

He also ran the Rolex 24 at Daytona as a warm-up for the 24 Hours of Le Mans, in which Alonso was part of the winning team. Alonso has been pursuing the top motorsports events and has said he would like to return to Indianapolis and add a win in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" to his resume. "Let's see what the



In this Thursday, March 22, 2018 file photo McLaren driver Fernando Alonso of Spain poses for a photo at the Australian Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne.

Associated Press

future brings," Alonso said in a statement, "new exciting challenges are around the corner. I'm having one of the happiest times ever in my life but I need to go on exploring new adventures." Alonso has 32 career F1 wins, 22 poles and 97 podiums. He won two world titles and was runner-up three times.

He's in his fifth season driving for McLaren and had hinted on social media he

had an announcement coming Tuesday. He delivered with a farewell video to F1 and in it noted "today I have some other bigger challenges than you can offer me" as the camera showed Alonso standing in front of his Indy 500 helmet. McLaren has not been competitive the last two seasons and Alonso, currently ninth in the standings, had been debating his future in the series.

He was not permitted to skip the Monaco Grand Prix to return to Indianapolis last May, but he was allowed to compete in the World Endurance Championship superseason and enter Le Mans. A two-time winner at Monaco and now a Le Mans winner, Alonso only needs to win the Indy 500 to complete motorsports unofficial "Triple Crown."

Zak Brown, CEO of McLaren, called Alonso "the pre-

eminent driver of his generation."

"There is a time for everyone to make a change and Fernando has decided the end of this season to be his," Brown said. "We respect his decision, even if we believe he is in the finest form of his career. Our open dialogue with Fernando has meant we could plan for this eventuality. While evaluating his future during the past months, Fernando's competitiveness has been undimmed. He has continued to perform at the highest level throughout, as we know he will do in the remaining nine races of this year's championship."

Brown was a key player in Alonso's entry at Indianapolis, Daytona and Le Mans. He's supported Alonso's quest to enter other formulas and signed off on the driver skipping the Monaco Grand Prix in 2017 to instead race at Indianapolis. Brown is also behind McLaren's potential entry into IndyCar and the team is believed to have courted four-time IndyCar Series champion Scott Dixon to be Alonso's teammate. Dixon on Monday announced a contract extension to remain with Chip Ganassi Racing, but acknowledged the presence of McLaren in his free agency talks made it a "noisy" process. □



This Nov. 19, 2017, file photo shows Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Ronald Darby (41) defends as Dallas Cowboys' Dez Bryant gains extra yardage after catching a pass in the first half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

DEZ BRYANT

Continued from Page 18

"I think you have to work through whatever conver-

sations we have and feel good about it."

Cleveland needs receiving help and receiver Jarvis

Landry and quarterback Tyrod Taylor have lobbied for Bryant, who has 531 career receptions for 7,459 yards and 73 touchdowns. But the 29-year-old Bryant has baggage, and the Browns have to be sure he's not only committed to them, but that he won't be a distraction. Bryant frequently clashed with Dallas coaches and he recently went on a Twitter rant criticizing former teammates. Jackson said the team will be prepared to ask Bryant the appropriate questions. "We do all of our homework prior to (a visit), and you have very open and candid conversations with guys about what your locker room is, how your team is run, how we go about do-

ing things and see if it fits," he said following Tuesday's practice. "The player has to be honest, and we have to be honest about what our expectations are. You just lay it out, and I think that's the only way you can do it at this time."

The Browns have been in the market for another receiver since camp opened.

Former Pro Bowler Josh Gordon has been absent to focus on his health and the team doesn't know when he'll be back. Cleveland recently traded former first-round pick Corey Coleman to Buffalo and there are still questions about whether rookie Antonio Callaway can be counted on because of his

background and recently being cited for marijuana possession and driving with a suspended license.

Bryant clearly has the talent to help the Browns, who now have to weigh the risk. Bryant is believed to have other options, but he could be enticed to join Landry, who isn't sure if Cleveland has enough for his friend.

"We're just trying to figure out if he wants to be here," Landry said. "Then obviously we're open arms and we'd love to have him. He'd be a great addition to our team and our offense for sure."

Bryant had 69 catches for 838 yards and six TDs last season, below his usual standards. His last 1,000-yard season was in 2014. □

Meyer probe costs \$500K but still about what Ohio St. wants

By MITCH STACY

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

The Urban Meyer investigation is costing Ohio State \$500,000, but whether the superstar football coach keeps his job still comes down to whether the university wants to stick with him based on how he's already been tainted by the scandal.

Meyer is on paid leave while Ohio State pays an outside firm to investigate and a six-member university committee considers whether he responded properly to accusations of domestic abuse made against one of his coaches, Zach Smith, who has been fired.

But Meyer has already given his bosses plenty to consider — he says he knew of domestic violence allegations against Zach Smith before he brought Smith to coach wide receivers at Ohio State, and that he reported new accusations properly when they surfaced in 2015.

University officials expect to make a decision within about a week in what could come down to a public relations balancing act involving the school's reputation, \$38 million in future salary under Meyer's contract and other jobs at stake.

WHY FIRE MEYER?

Meyer knew about a 2009 domestic incident in Gainesville, Florida, when Smith was a graduate assistant coach for Meyer's Florida team. A police report says that during an argument Zach Smith picked up a pregnant Courtney and threw her against a wall. Zach Smith was never charged.

Knowing that, Meyer allowed Smith to stay on staff at Florida and then brought Smith in at Ohio State. Meyer also knew about the 2015 abuse allegations, but Smith — the grandson of former Ohio State coach and Meyer mentor Earle Bruce — kept his job until Courtney Smith filed for a restraining order on July 20. "At the end of the day, (Meyer is) the highest-paid state employee in Ohio,



In this April 14, 2018, file photo, Ohio State coach Urban Meyer watches the NCAA college football team's spring game in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

and you have a lot more responsibility than coaching," said B. David Ridpath, an associate professor of sports administration at Ohio University in Athens. "And clearly there was enough smoke with Zach Smith that they should have gotten rid of him a long time ago."

Ohio State didn't put Meyer on leave until Courtney Smith talked to a reporter, saying she was abused for years by her ex-husband. Zach Smith has denied her abuse allegations and has never been prosecuted for abuse.

The Meyer investigation plays out at a time when the school itself — and college athletics at large — is under scrutiny around the handling of misconduct allegations.

Ohio State has a growing list of more than 100 former students and athletes who say they were groped and otherwise mistreated by Dr. Richard Strauss, a deceased athletic department doctor who worked at the university for nearly 20 years. There are questions about whether Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Jor-

dan knew about the abuse when he was an assistant wrestling coach at Ohio State during the same time. At least three federal lawsuits have been filed against Ohio State by men who say they were abused by Strauss.

Don't expect fans and critics to separate the scandals when a decision is made on Meyer.

WHY KEEP MEYER?

Meyer said he followed "proper protocol and procedures" after finding out about the 2015 abuse allegations.

"Please know that the truth is the ultimate power, and I am confident I took appropriate action," Meyer said in a tweeted statement.

Meyer didn't detail those actions but the crafted statement was clearly a public defense of his job.

Meyer signed a contract extension in the spring with new language that requires him to promptly report any "known violations" of Ohio State's sexual misconduct policy to the school's Title IX officials. The policy includes sexual harassment, intimate violence and stalking "that involves any student,

faculty or staff." The clause doesn't specify how Meyer should treat older accusations.

Meyer may have limited responsibility for reporting because of the scope of behavior covered by the misconduct policy and Title IX, according to Micaela Deming, staff attorney with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

Both the policy and Title IX focus on incidents on-campus or at university-related events, she said. So in the case of Zach Smith's 2015 arrest, "this off-campus, non-student-involved domestic violence incident seems to be largely excluded from both the sexual harassment policy and Title IX," Deming said.

If Meyer did everything he was supposed to do, Ohio State then faces the question of whether to fire him without cause, leaving the university on the hook for \$38 million to pay off the balance of his contract. Dissolving the deal would certainly invite a challenge from Meyer, adding legal costs and leading to new rounds of public scrutiny. There's also winning to con-

sider.

Meyer is 73-8 with a national title in six seasons with the Buckeyes. Winning generates money and prestige, while his dismissal would certainly cause turmoil for the football program.

Nobody at Ohio State wants a repeat of 2011, when the Buckeyes had a losing season after coach Jim Tressel was fired for lying to the NCAA about player violations.

OTHER OPTIONS?

Ohio State could suspend Meyer rather than fire him, if university leaders want to retain him while still delivering some punishment for keeping a coach around for so long despite accusations of domestic abuse.

The investigation also has implications for other athletic officials.

Athletic director Gene Smith and Meyer's wife Shelley Meyer, an instructor in Ohio State's nursing school, also knew of the 2015 incident, Zach Smith and Courtney Smith has said.

A key detail for investigators will be whether the Title IX office or athletic director responded properly — if they were indeed informed. Citing the investigation, the university would not make those officials available for comment when contacted by The Associated Press.

WHAT ABOUT THE SMITHS?

Zach Smith lost his \$340,000 job, but still faces a court case where more details could emerge about his situation with Courtney Smith, including their friendships with the Meyers.

Zach Smith said he was never aggressive with his ex-wife and that any injuries she suffered were the result of him defending himself against her aggression.

The Smiths are due in court next month for a hearing on the restraining order, which Courtney sought after Zach drove to her apartment to drop off their son after he had been told to stay away. He was charged with criminal trespass as a result.

Courtney Smith has spoken with Ohio State investigators, her lawyer said. □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

Do you feel tired all the time even when you think you get enough sleep? If you find yourself getting winded or short of breath for little or no reason, if people tell you that you look pale, if you have developed palpitations or a racing heart you could have a metabolic imbalance. Your metabolic process or metabolism is the process by which the food we eat is broken down into useful substances and energy that our body needs to live. This is how we maintain a healthy body. My protocol, Biocompatible Medicine, specializes in identifying and correcting metabolic problems.

Chronic stress, physical, mental or emotional can cause many of the symptoms mentioned above. Another reason could be related to an improperly working thyroid. Thyroid imbalances might also include sudden weight-gain or loss and problems with memory. It is thought that one-fifth of all chronic depression cases may be due to an underactive thyroid. Panic attacks, nervousness and irritability can be symptoms of an over active thyroid, as well as weak muscles, soft nails and hair loss.

The thyroid, which produces hormones, is responsible for controlling healthy body temperature and producing energy. When an underactive thyroid does not send out enough hormones, our bodies do not have enough energy

to function fully. An overactive thyroid gives us too many hormones, causing stress-related symptoms. Unfortunately, a general thyroid test might not be sufficient to diagnose specific thyroid problems. A detailed, thyroid blood test can usually detect hidden problems. However, for some people comprehensive hormone testing including saliva rather than only blood can check hormone status including the thyroid even further.

A routine thyroid check should be done every few years as a part of a health wellness exam. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, have your thyroid tested in detail. If the symptoms are determined to be thyroid related, dietary changes including supplements like kelp, which is rich in iodine could restore the balance to your life. Don't try to "fix" your thyroid with table salt that has iodine in it. Ordinary table salt is not healthy for anyone. If you like salt, try natural sea salt which does not raise blood pressure and contains healthy trace minerals from the sea.

Anemia is another condition that causes fatigue. Like the underactive thyroid, low levels of B vitamin's which include B1, B2, B3 (niacin), B5, B6, B12, B9 (folic acid) and iron can cause lack of energy, weight gain and depression. Vitamin B is the body's conductor of energy, as is the thyroid, and metabolizes the foods we eat into energy. Vitamin B12 maintains and repairs blood cells as well as carries oxygen through the blood to the body. Folic acid helps produce and repair DNA and it is essential in the growth of red blood cells.

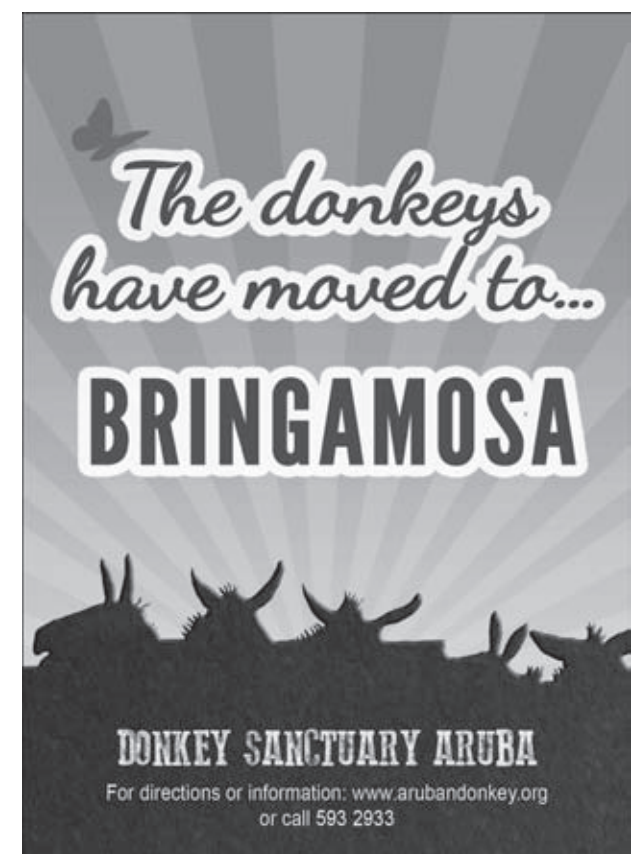
Our clinic checks blood test results for the levels of vitamin B12 and Folic Acid to help diagnose the cause of anemia or neuropathy (nerve damage). Most people and many doctors think to treat anemia, you must supplement with iron. However, of the 400 different anemia's, only one is produced by a deficiency in iron. Iron pills usually do not improve anemia.

There are several common types of anemia that are caused by B- complex vitamin deficiency. A deficiency in either B12 or folate can lead to macrocytic anemia where the red blood cells are very large. Microcytic anemia, is when the red blood cells are too small, this is caused by a deficiency of B- complex and Folic Acid. When

Tired of being tired?

supplementing with B vitamins, it is important to supplement with the whole B "family" B complex vitamins usually come as B50, B100 (stronger) or in liquid form. B12, found mainly in red meats, is lacking in vegetarian diets and people who follow the blood type diet for group A and AB. B12 tablets do not absorb properly through the stomach. B12 is best given by a doctor through injection or sub-lingual as a nugget or liquid under the tongue. Make sure you are taking a full B complex with your B-12 vitamins. Also check your formula as folate is a better form of folic acid.

Get The Point! You could be burning the candle at both ends. Not getting enough sleep is easy when we continue to meet our job responsibilities and we want to enjoy all the Carnival festivities. Getting run down can be helped with vitamins and nutritional elements working together to provide the raw material to produce lots of energy. Not working and partying? Then we have a metabolic problem that can be identified and corrected. Stop feeling tired! Come in so we can correct that metabolic imbalance. □



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What really matters with your first credit card

By **CLAIRE TSOSIE**
Associated Press

Getting your first credit card is like moving into your first apartment: It's exciting, empowering — and, once you get used to it, pretty underwhelming.

Your first time out, "you're not going to have a credit card that is going to have a high limit," says Paul Golden, spokesman for the National Endowment for Financial Education. "It's not going to have great benefits or kickbacks or reward programs probably tied to it. And that's OK."

A starter credit card is just that — a start. Used responsibly, it's a way to build a positive credit history, which will help you with things like getting a better deal on a mortgage or cheaper car insurance; and it will help you qualify for a card with better terms down the road — for example, one with richer rewards. Here's what you should look for.

EASE OF APPROVAL

When you have a thin credit file and limited income, you're not likely to qualify for a card packed with benefits. Instead, aim



In this June 15, 2017, file photo, credit cards are seen in Haverhill, Mass. A starter credit card is just that, a start.

for something more basic. If you already have a credit history that shows consistent on-time payments and responsible borrowing — say, from repaying student loans — it's possible to qualify for a regular "unsecured" credit card that doesn't require a deposit. To increase your odds of

approval, apply through the bank you already use or with a preapproved offer received in the mail. If you're in college, look into a student credit card. Don't have a credit history yet? Consider applying for a secured card, one that requires a cash deposit. Or ask a parent to add you

as an authorized user on a card with history of on-time payments and a balance that's far below the limit.

NO ANNUAL FEES

Avoiding an annual fee on your first credit card is a budget-friendly move that allows you to keep the card open for a long time at no cost. That can bol-

ster your credit scores if you continue to make on-time payments on the account.

USEFUL REWARDS

When Zina Kumok applied for her first credit card at 22, she wanted a sign-up bonus — one that she could earn easily.

"I wasn't making a lot, and I was trying not to spend a lot" at the time, says Kumok, now 29, a freelance writer in Indianapolis who covers personal finance.

"I didn't want to feel like I was being pressured to spend more to reach a bonus, which obviously never works out in your favor," she says. Kumok opted for a card with versatile cash-back rewards and a sign-up bonus with a modest spending requirement.

Follow Kumok's lead: Look for a card that will reward you for the spending you're already doing to avoid overspending to land a sign-up bonus.

Keep in mind that cards with rewards tend to charge higher interest rates. But if you expect to pay your bill in full every month, that shouldn't be a deal-breaker. □

Associated Press

Indian rupee falls to all-time low against dollar

By **TIM SULLIVAN**
Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Indian rupee fell to an all-time low Tuesday against the U.S. dollar amid worries that Turkey's growing financial crisis could spread to other developing-world economies.

Indian Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chander Garg told reporters that there was "nothing at this stage to worry" about after the rupee reached 70.1 to

the dollar earlier in the day. He said the dip resulted from "external factors."

The rupee ended the day at 69.93 per dollar, down 110 paise or 1.6 percent. It was the currency's biggest one-day drop in five years. The rupee has lost about 8 percent of its value this year.

Garg said the country had sufficient foreign exchange reserves to weather the downturn.

Turkey's central bank has

been unable to stop a sharp plunge in the lira, pushing the value of the dollar higher and driving down emerging-market currencies from South Africa to Mexico. Rajnish Kumar, chairman of the State Bank of India, said he believed the rupee would stabilize at around 69-70 to the dollar, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. Turkey's economy has

been troubled for years, but the latest crisis was set off by worries over President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's economic policies and a trade dispute with the United States. Turkey's government has so far refused to raise interest rates to prop up the currency, fearing a political backlash if it causes the economy to slow.

The falling rupee, which

will make Indian exports cheaper on overseas markets, was welcomed by one of India's top industrialists. □

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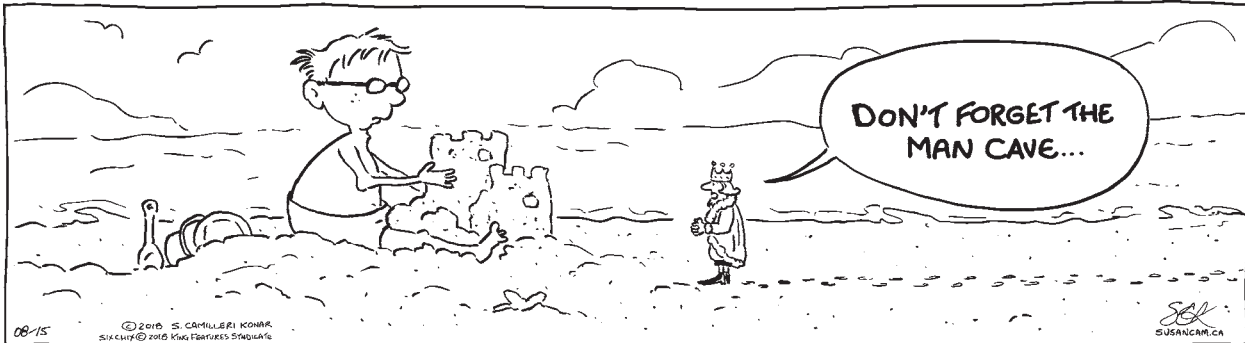
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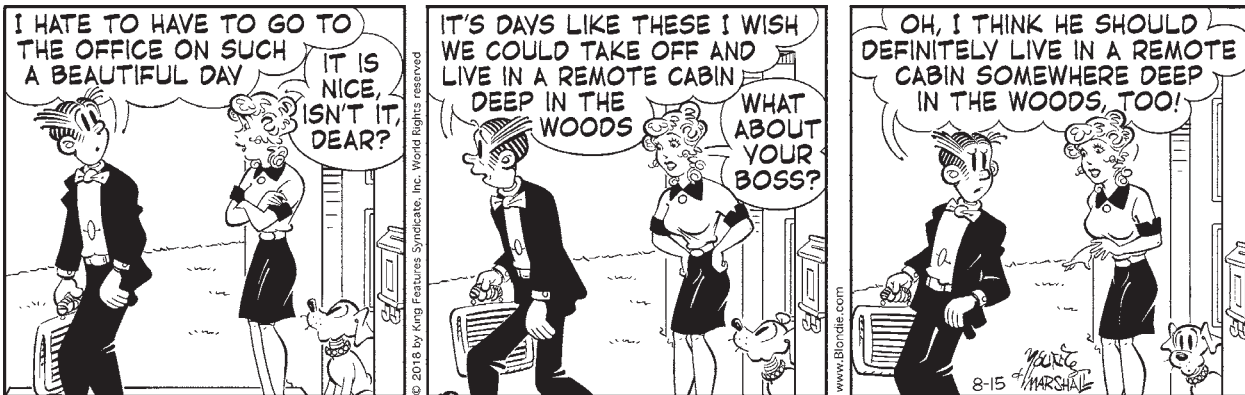
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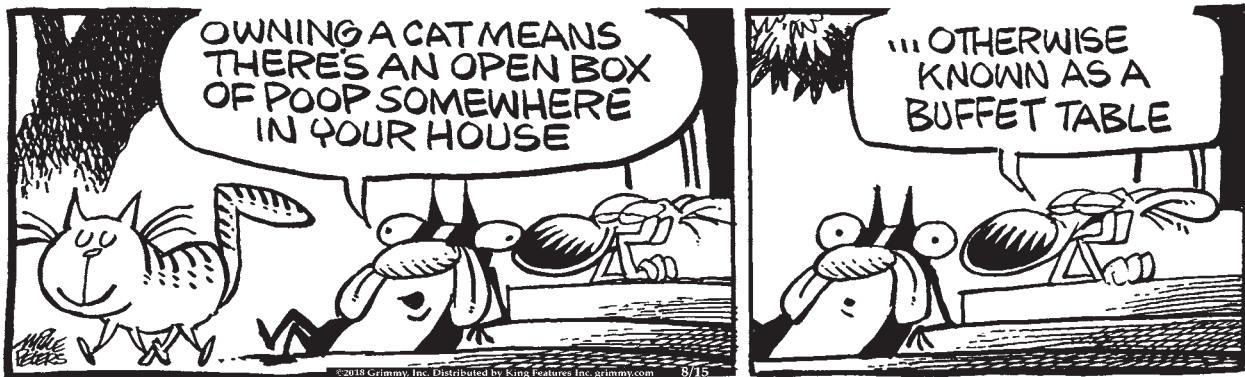
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Blondie



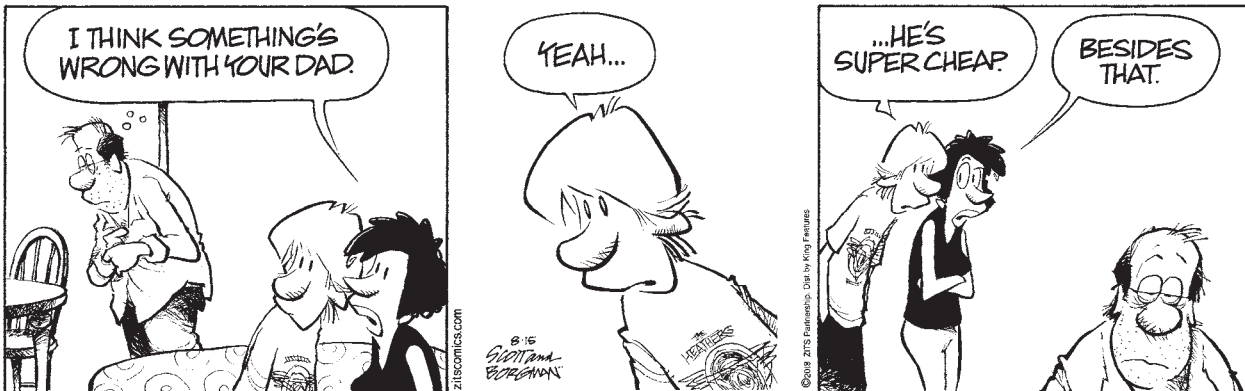
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7				1		
9			7		5			8
	1		4	9	6		3	
		2				5		
3		5				9		7
	7	4				3	6	
		6				4		
	8		6	4	9		5	
5							7	

Difficulty Level ★★★

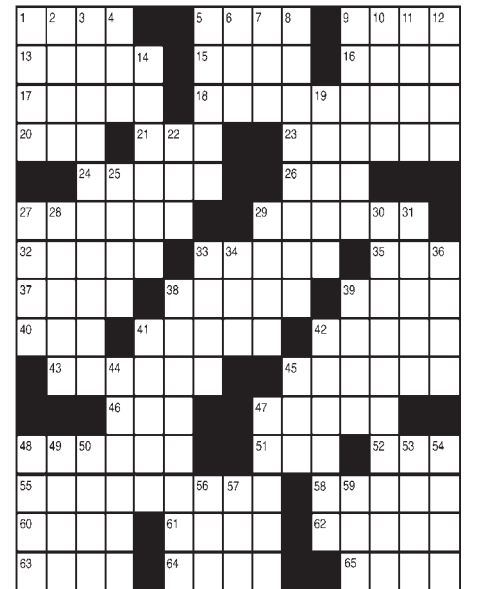
8/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	2	8	4	3	5	1	7	6	9
	5	1	7	2	6	9	8	3	4
	3	9	6	8	4	7	2	5	1
	7	3	8	4	1	5	6	9	2
	6	2	1	9	8	3	4	7	5
	4	5	9	6	7	2	1	8	3
	8	7	5	1	9	4	3	2	6
	1	6	2	5	3	8	9	4	7
	9	4	3	7	2	6	5	1	8

ACROSS

- 1 James or Scott
- 5 Oxford, for one
- 9 Bow of a ship
- 13 Monk's superior
- 15 Sunbathes
- 16 TV's "One Life to Live"
- 17 Laziness
- 18 Way too thin
- 20 Haw's partner, in phrase
- 21 Curved edge
- 23 Martians and others
- 24 Actor Jeremy
- 26 Brooch
- 27 Fruit salad ingredient
- 29 Complete failure
- 32 Gladden
- 33 Mark one's cattle
- 35 Hovel
- 37 Teases
- 38 Informal street talk
- 39 Cause of misery
- 40 "My ___ Sal"
- 41 Gives the cold shoulder to
- 42 Thus
- 43 Large bird dog
- 45 Gathering spots for Elks
- 46 Actor Linden
- 47 Awaken
- 48 Mr. Einstein
- 51 "___ a Small World"
- 52 Hullabaloo
- 55 Unfinished business
- 58 Receded
- 60 Indira's dress
- 61 Chess piece
- 62 Dinner course
- 63 Dollar bills
- 64 Move back and forth
- 65 Colors



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/15/18

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

RID	FRANS	JEST
HAIR	RUPEE	ACHY
ONCE	IDEAL	CHIN
SKEDADDLE	LONE	
BURY	CRY	
APRONS	BOTANIST	
BEAKS	HAVEN	DUO
IRKS	BORED	FIAT
DOE	OILER	PROVE
ENDANGER	BEAMED	
BAA	MING	
FLEA	PLAINTIFF	
GOAT	POUND	LORD
HIRE	LANCE	EYED
INNS	ENTER	TEE

8/15/18

- 42 Monopoly player's purchases
- 44 Grad student's paper
- 45 Building site
- 47 Dangerous
- 48 In addition
- 49 Give to a borrower
- 50 Drill a hole
- 53 No longer with us
- 54 Probability
- 56 Currently
- 57 ___ favor for; help out
- 59 ___ none; with no exceptions

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NASA administrator supports Trump 'space force' proposal

By KEVIN MCGILL

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — NASA

Administrator Jim Bridenstine expressed full support Monday for President Donald Trump's proposed military "Space Force" but added that it will have a role separate from NASA.

Bridenstine said in New Orleans that NASA's responsibilities involve science, space exploration and technology development. As for defense and national security, he told reporters in New Orleans: "We want to be an agency that maintains its independence from those capabilities."

Bridenstine was touring the Michoud Assembly Center, where workers are putting together major parts of systems that are planned to return Americans to the moon and, eventually, take them to Mars. In a towering building, Boeing workers are building parts of the 322-foot (98-meter) rocket known as the Space Launch System. Lockheed Martin workers are building the spacecraft called Orion.

Bridenstine, a former Republican congressman, was nominated by Trump to head NASA last year and confirmed by the Sen-



NASA Administrator James Bridenstine delivers remarks as he tours the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, Monday, Aug. 13, 2018.

ate in April.

He touched on the work at Michoud and other NASA concerns while standing next to a massive liquid hydrogen tank — a test version of one that eventually will be part of the SLS rocket.

SPACE FORCE

Bridenstine was among the officials with Trump in June when he called for creation of a new military branch known as the Space Force. He said it's needed be-

cause the nation's space assets — including satellite technology and global positioning systems — are vital to numerous interests and industries, including communications, navigation, food and energy production, banking and climate. "If we lose GPS, we lose banking in the United States of America. There's no milk in the grocery store in a matter of three days," he said.

The space force plan re-

quires congressional approval. Military leaders and experts have questioned the wisdom of launching an expensive, bureaucratic new service branch.

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

Bridenstine spoke enthusiastically about the much-delayed James Webb Space Telescope, what is now a nearly \$10 billion project. That next-generation technology is envisioned as the successor to the Hubble

Space Telescope, despite an announcement in June — for the third time in less than a year — of a lengthy postponement.

Among the latest problems: In a vibration test of the telescope earlier this year in California by prime contractor Northrop Grumman, dozens of loose fasteners — some 70 pieces in all — came off. In another mishap, the wrong solvent was used to clean spacecraft propulsion valves, leading to a need for repair or replacement.

Webb, which officials now hope to launch in 2021, is meant to peer farther into space and deeper into time than ever before. It will operate from a point 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) from Earth.

Bridenstine gave a lengthy explanation of the infrared telescope's design and mission and added: "We are, in fact, going to see back to the very beginning of the universe, what we call cosmic dawn."

He stopped short of saying there would be financial penalties for Northrop Grumman to cover NASA's burgeoning costs on the project but said the contractor is being held accountable.

SLS AND ORION

Bridenstine praised workers at Michoud for their work on the Orion spacecraft and the SLS rocket that will launch it into space, saying their efforts are helping the U.S. get ahead and stay ahead of other nations in space.

"This is a brand new, very large project that is unmatched in the world," he said. "And it will remain unmatched for a very long time."

The SLS rocket is expected to launch an unmanned Orion mission beyond the moon and back, a 40,000-mile (64,370-kilometer) trip, in late 2019.

Bridenstine got a close up look at the Orion capsule with astronauts Stan Love and Nicole Mann, expected to be part of the crew for Orion's first crewed mission.

Live salmon released for ailing orca but she doesn't eat

SEATTLE (AP) — Researchers carrying out unprecedented efforts to save an ailing young killer whale in the U.S. Northwest released live salmon into waters in front of the free-swimming orca but didn't see her take any of the fish.

The operation that dropped eight salmon from a boat Sunday is part of an extraordinary response ef-

fort to save the 3 1/2-year-old critically endangered whale called J50, who is malnourished and in poor body condition. A veterinarian gave the animal a closer look Thursday and also injected her with antibiotics using a dart.

Brad Hanson, wildlife biologist for NOAA Fisheries, told reporters Monday that the team will wait for the or-

cas to return to the inland waters of Washington state to evaluate the next step. The whales were last seen heading west toward more open waters.

The fish-eating whales have struggled for years because of lack of Chinook salmon — their preferred food source — toxic contamination and disturbance from vessel noise. They are down

to just 75 animals, the lowest in more than three decades. Hanson said he saw J50 "slogging along" with her pod mates off Washington state's San Juan Island, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of Seattle. She appeared tired from swimming into the current and was even moving backward as other whales sprinted by her.

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Following instincts led to rock collaboration Arthur Buck

By DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite making three albums of baseball-themed songs with some friends, Peter Buck isn't much of a fan. He does, however, have the savvy of a veteran ball-player.

Following his instincts led to the former R.E.M. guitarist's latest project, a collaboration with songwriter Joseph Arthur. They started writing songs at Buck's hideaway in Mexico when Arthur came to collect a dobro he'd left behind at a previous visit, and liked them enough to realize it was more than a lark.

The Arthur Buck disc is catchy guitar rock with enough flourishes to avoid sounding retro. Buck smooths quirks that have kept Arthur from becoming better known, while Buck benefits from Arthur's lyrical creativity. Paste magazine critic Madison Desler wrote, "I've got a sinking feeling my dad might like this." Well, alright. Buck's 61 and been working for four decades now. He doesn't fight who he is.

"I don't really think that I'm busy writing the footnotes



This undated image released by New West Records shows Peter Buck, left, and Joseph Arthur who released a collaboration album "Arthur Buck."

to my career," he said. "I work really hard on these things. It's different when you're 19, 20 or 21 — the whole world is out there. Now I've written some 1,000 songs. It's 'OK, have I done this before? Is it different?'" Solo records are fun but the buzz from a strong collaboration "is kind of a drug in its own way," he said.

"I really feel like this is the first record from a new band," Arthur said. "Whether other people are going to view it in the same way, it feels that way to me. It has a feeling that's exciting. I've been in side projects before that haven't felt that way. They felt like side projects." They begin their first tour

Sept. 7 in Seattle.

After finishing recording, the men handed the tapes to sound mixer Tchad Blake with the instruction to take it in any direction he sees fit.

A younger Buck would never have done that.

"Back in the '80s when R.E.M. was going, everybody tried to change us,"

he said. "We felt we knew better than these guys what it is that we do."

Seven years after R.E.M. ended their 31-year partnership, Buck said the decision still feels right, even if he misses hanging out with Michael Stipe and Mike Mills. The decision to quit came over lunch in about 3 minutes after they finished their last album, "Collapse Into Now." Stipe said he needed a break from the endless cycle of records and tours.

"So I said, 'I know the feeling. We could just end it,'" Buck recalled. "We turned to Mike and said, 'What do you think?' He said, 'Sounds good to me.' That was our big band breakup meeting. I think it's a great way to go out."

"Some of this stuff is like a fairy tale," he said. "I was lucky enough to fall into this other world. What goes on in our heads was presented to the world and accepted and we changed our little corner of the world bit by bit."

At the end ... I think the feeling was, we've done this, we've done everything we can and let's let people see that it's a cool thing. □

Associated Press

Kristen Bell narrates cuddly IMAX documentary 'Pandas'

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anyone who has seen Kristen Bell break down in (happy) hysterics over a sloth knows the actress' affinity for animals, especially those of the cute and cuddly variety.

So when the people behind the new IMAX original film "Pandas" asked "The Good Place" star if she would consider narrating the documentary, it was a no-brainer.

"I'm not un-secretive about the fact that I'm an animal lover, or an IMAX lover to be totally honest with you," Bell said. "I think they produce some of the best content out there and I take my kids to the science center every time there's a new IMAX movie. I just think

the patience with which they produce particularly their animal documentaries is kind of astounding."

"Pandas," from David Douglas and Drew Fellman ("Born to Be Wild" and "Island of Lemurs: Madagascar"), takes audiences to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in China where scientists are working toward a goal of releasing captive-born pandas into the wild, where only about 2,000 remaining pandas live.

The film, which will be in wide release beginning Friday, focuses in on one, Qian Qian (pronounced Chen Chen), from cub stage to her supervised release in the wild and the humans trying to make that happen.

Hou Rong, the director of

research at Panda Base since 1994, has raised over 200 baby pandas during her tenure and hopes that one day their work will help pandas thrive outside of captivity.

In an inspiring display of cross-cultural solidarity, she travels to New Hampshire to observe how a man named Ben Kilham has for 20 years been successfully raising orphaned black bear cubs for eventual release in the wild. At Kilham's suggestion, Panda Base hires American conservation biologist Jake Owens, whom Douglas calls "the Indiana Jones of biologists" to help supervise Qian Qian's transition from city panda to country panda.

Bell, who got involved later in the process, didn't get



In this March 17, 2018 file photo, Kristen Bell holds a stuffed panda teddy bear at the LA Premiere of "Pandas" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

to meet the pandas but hopes that one day she will. But that didn't stop her from peppering the scientists like Owens with questions, like how much do they weigh ("150 pounds"), how much do they feel like they weigh ("about 300 pounds") and

what do they smell like ("sweet grass and milk")?

An avid watcher of nature documentaries, Bell said that she and her young daughters Lincoln and Delta particularly love David Attenborough and the "Planet Earth" series. □

Defamation lawsuit over alleged fake Western painting tossed

By SCOTT SONNER

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A federal judge has thrown out a defamation lawsuit a Western art collector filed against a prestigious auction house and the owner of a Reno gallery who claimed an early 20th century cowboy painting he sold for \$750,000 was a fake.

The judge in Reno dismissed the lawsuit last week against Peter Stremmel Galleries, the Coeur d'Alene Art Auction of Nevada and its partner Mark Overby of Hayden, Idaho. Gerald Peters, who owns galleries in New York City and Santa Fe, New Mexico, said in the lawsuit filed last year that the defendants told his longtime friend and business partner R.D. Hubbard a 1937 oil painting wasn't an original work of Frank Tenney Johnson. Lawyers for the defendants argued Peters wasn't maligned because the statements about the authenticity of "The Sun and the Rain" didn't refer directly to Peters. Rather, they were contained in private communications with associ-



In this Friday, June 2, 2017 file photo, chief curator Amy Scott pauses for photos with a painting titled "First Streak of Dawn" by Frank Tenney Johnson at the Autry Museum of the American West, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

ates of Hubbard, a business tycoon who owns the Big-horn Golf Club in Palm Desert, California. Most of the associates were contacted at a time when they had no idea Peters was even involved. U.S. District Court Judge Miranda Du agreed and granted their motions Friday for summary judgment.

"It would have been unreasonable as a matter of law for Mr. Hubbard or his associates to infer that Mr. Stremmel intended to disparage plaintiffs," Du wrote. "Under the circumstances here, where Mr. Hubbard and his associates solic-

ited Mr. Stremmel's opinion about the painting and kept him in the dark about plaintiff's involvement, a finding that Mr. Stremmel engaged in deceptive trade practices would border on absurdity," she said. Defense lawyer Mark

Gunderson said they "trust that this dismissal with prejudice will be the end of this inappropriately brought lawsuit."

But Kurt Wihl, a lawyer for Peters, said they intend to appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Johnson, a one-time illustrator for Field and Stream magazine who became famous for his oil paintings of nighttime frontier scenes, was born in Iowa in 1874 and died in Los Angeles in 1939.

More than a dozen of his works have sold at the massive annual Coeur D'Alene Auction in Reno over the years, including "The Sheriff's Posse," for nearly \$1.1 million in 2008.

Less famous than Frederic Remington and Charles Russell, Johnson is of special interest because he worked with Hollywood studios to create backdrops after he moved to Los Angeles in the 1920s when the Western movie genre was being invented. □

Handler's 'Couldn't Miss' novel is entertaining



This cover image released by William Morrow shows "The Man Couldn't Miss," a mystery by David Handler.

Associated Press

elist Stewart "Hoagy" Hoag, his lovely actress ex-wife, Merilee Nash, with whom he will forever be in love, and Lulu, their vocal basset hound, are a light read, with good plots and no overt violence. But Handler also uses this series to explore heavier situations — celebrity worship, debilitating disease and secrets so precious that some people have no limits on what they will do to protect them.

Those are themes that the mysteries tackle in 2018 and were just as pertinent in 1993, the year in which "The Man Who Couldn't Miss" is set.

In the series' 10th outing, Hoagy has joined Merilee at her farm in Lyme, Connecticut. Hoagy and Lulu are staying in the farm's guesthouse, where he's working on his next book,

joining Merilee for meals and drinks. Merilee is directing and starring in the one-night performance of Noel Coward's "Private Lives" that will be a fundraiser to save the historic Sherbourne Playhouse. The audience will be filled with "stage and society luminaries" — Katharine Hepburn, Jackie Onassis and her "tall, dark and handsome son," Neil Simon and Meryl Streep, to name just a few. And the play will be star-studded with four well-known actors.

Hoagy again turns amateur sleuth when one of the male leads is murdered during the play's intermission. Hoagy already is dealing with a former friend of Merilee who is blackmailing her over an incident that happened more than 20 years ago. □

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By OLIVE H. COGDILL
 "The Man Who Couldn't Miss" (William Morrow), by David Handler
 On the surface, David Handler's mysteries about Hollywood ghost writer and nov-

Ask Marilu Henner about a day and you'll hear every detail

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's best not to get into an argument about past events with Marilu Henner. You will definitely lose. The actress is hard-wired with the ability to instantly recall facts that are decades old.

"What I have is known as Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory. It's like a fancy name," she says, laughing. "They don't call it hyperthymesia anymore because that sounded like a disease."

Henner, who found fame with the sitcom "Taxi" and went on to star on Broadway and television and write books, has basically superior recall. Her nicknames growing up were "Memory Kid," "Memory Girl" and the computer "UNIVAC."

"To this day, my siblings will say, 'Marilu, do a week from our childhood.' And I'll just pick a random week and go through all the days that we went through," she says.

Her skills include correctly identifying the day of the week for any given date. Ask her what day was, say, Aug. 9, 1975, and she'll instantly say "Saturday" and tell you about her 24 hours. So when the 66-year-old stopped by The Associated Press, we talked about some key dates in her life — both upcoming and in the



In this July 26, 2018 photo, actress Marilu Henner poses for a portrait in New York to promote her seventh Broadway show, "Gettin' The Band Back Together," which opens on August 13.

Associated Press

past.

AUGUST 13, 2018

That's Monday — when Henner officially opens the musical "Gettin' The Band Back Together," her seventh Broadway show. She plays a former rock 'n' roll wild child who helps her son re-form his old band and compete in a Battle of the Bands. One of Henner's songs is the hysterical Act One closer, "What Would

Joe Perry Do?"

"I'm still doing movies and still writing books, I'm still doing television things, but this sort of dropped in my lap and there was no way I was going to pass it up," she says.

The show is a musical rarity on Broadway — a show not based on existing music, a TV show or a film. "It's original music with an original story and it's so great," she

says. "It's just great to once in a while see something that's original."

MARCH 24, 2014

A key moment in how she got the part. Henner was attending the opening of the Broadway play "Mothers and Sons" on that day — "it was a Monday night" — and she spied friends elsewhere in the audience. She wandered over before the show started and, as

she did, caught the eye of producer Ken Davenport, who was spearheading the development of "Gettin' The Band Back Together."

He instantly knew he'd found the actress who could play his mother character. Davenport sent her the script, they had lunch in Los Angeles and he offered her the part.

Davenport naturally confirms Henner's memory of the event and says she's perfect in the role: "The amazing thing about Marilu is that she transcends all mediums. Anytime she walks in a room, people want to be around her," he says.

JULY 5, 1978

It's been 40 years since "Taxi" first aired and that's the date when the actors all met for the first table read — Henner, Tony Danza, Andy Kaufman, Jeff Conaway, Christopher Lloyd and Danny DeVito, who played the hated Louie De Palma. The role Henner played — Elaine Nardo, a mother of two children — was originally written for a 33-year-old Italian New Yorker with a teenage daughter. Henner, a then-25-year-old of Polish and Greek background, won the role because "they felt like I could hold my own with the guys."

The show would win 14 Emmys and Henner appeared on all 112 episodes. □

Orphan's tale spans globe but is syrupy

By KENDAL WEAVER

Associated Press

"Bindi" (Little, Brown), by Paul Matthew Maisano Any parent would be proud of Birendra, the 8-year-old boy who is the central character of "Bindi," the debut novel of Paul Matthew Maisano.

Born in India, Birendra is bright, sweet and thoughtful, despite fateful events that take his family from him.

He is so kind and good in the face of adversity, however, that his story, despite interesting twists, is often

too saccharine.

Birendra's story, set mainly in 1993, shifts among three locales — the coastal Indian town of Verlaka where he was born and becomes an orphan, west London where his married aunt lives and well-to-do Hollywood where his adoptive mother resides.

All are rendered by Maisano with convincing and informative cultural and descriptive touches.

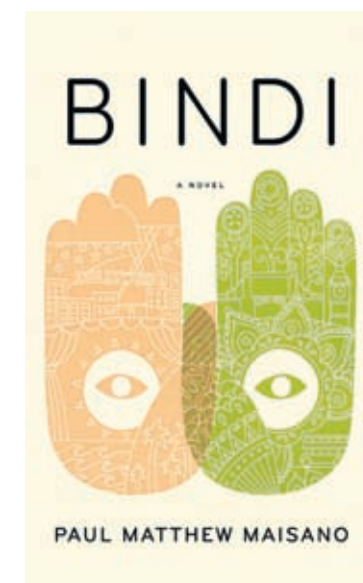
The narrative also is built on troubling events, including the deaths of parents and the breakup of families

and relationships. One of the main characters — Birendra's Aunt Nayana, the twin sister of his mother — is drawn with depth and complexity. An academic achiever in west London, she moves from an adulterous affair to the verge of an emotional breakdown.

All of this helps give dramatic substance to the story of an orphaned boy on a journey around the globe. But too many scenes move slowly with simplistic events and dialogue; they seem written for readers about Birendra's age.

These include scenes with Madeline, the rich, self-absorbed single woman from Hollywood who adopts Birendra on a sudden impulse, and her brother, Edward, a much-needed adult male figure in the boy's new life in America. A novel about an orphaned boy on an uncertain trip across continents has much to recommend it.

But this boy is smart and kind at the start, in the middle and at the end of the book. This is good for Birendra, but not the novel. □



This cover image released by Little, Brown and Company shows "bindi," a novel by Paul Matthew Maisano.

Associated Press

Wattle fences: Weaving branches takes time, yields rewards

By **CAIN BURDEAU**

Associated Press

CONTRADA PETRARO, Sicily (AP) — They come in the middle of the night and are gone by morning.

But without fail, they leave their calling cards: Pronged footprints and gashes in the ground where they've dug with natural abandon.

This nocturnal troublemaker in mountainous northern Sicily is the "cinghiale," the wild pig, a bane to those who tend a garden.

When I came to live with my wife and two boys on a small abandoned farm that we bought here in the Madonie Mountains, the locals quickly instilled a fear of the cinghiale in me. According to many people, these animals have made gardening nearly impossible.

The wild pigs disappeared from Sicily around the end of the 19th century, but their numbers have exploded since they were reintroduced more than 20 years ago and crossbred with domesticated pig species, authorities say.

Plant a vineyard? Don't bother, locals told me. They'll eat all your grapes. Put up a fence and they'll find a way in. These pigs can jump 3 feet off the ground, I learned.

One neighbor told me he was removing his vineyard due to the pigs and their bottomless appetites. "They're terrible," he said with regret.

But I had visions of turning sections of our three acres into garden spots overflowing with carrots, tomatoes,



This March 26, 2018 photo shows Cain Burdeau cutting to length a branch to make a post for a garden wattle fence in Contrada Petraro in the mountains of northern Sicily.

cucumbers, herbs, artichokes.

I began to think harder about fences that would keep out the wild pigs.

Our farm, like much of the countryside hereabouts, is patchily ringed by wire fences threaded with strands of barbed wire. These fences weren't designed to keep wild pigs out but to keep flocks of sheep in. Held up by withered sticks and even sections of plumbing pipe, they were old and falling over. They were useless, and a nuisance. One section cut across our land and had to be removed both for safety and ease of passage. I didn't want my boys to get caught on the barbed wire while they were running and playing.

With wire cutters in hand, I

removed these obstacles. Many people string up electric fences around gardens. But there are problems: Besides costing a fair amount, they can malfunction, and pose the obvious problem of causing nasty electric shocks.

Sturdy wire fences with cement posts are common. But I found them unattractive, expensive and boring to look at with their uniformity in shape and purpose. Besides, I was told that pigs will get under them eventually. As spring approached — and with it an urge to sow seeds and plant vegetables — we still had no fence. And on several crisp winter mornings, I found the telltale signs of wild pigs: big holes dug around olive trees and along muddy trenches where rains drained off our hillsides.

The power of their snouts was impressive. The pigs root in search of tubers and other buried delights, and can make it look like a mechanized tiller guided by a phantom got loose overnight.

As it happened, one evening as I read Leo Tolstoy's masterpiece "Anna Karenina," I paused halfway through one of his descriptions of Russian country life. He depicted a countryside strung with wattle fences.

What exactly IS a wattle fence?

Associated Press

I had a vague notion, but needed to look it up in a dictionary. It was a eureka moment: A wattle fence is made of sticks driven into the ground and interwoven with twigs and branches. Then I did the next obvious thing: an internet search. Sure enough, a few people out in the world were wattle-fencing, and happy to show how it is done on home-made videos.

A wattle fence is simple. It's made by pounding posts into the ground — say 12 inches deep — and then weaving twigs and branches in and out of the posts. At the very least, a twig needs to be woven around three posts so that it stays in place.

The fence's robustness — and it does become surprisingly robust — comes from weaving twigs in opposite directions around the posts. So, if you start one twig on the inside of a post, it then gets woven around the outside of the next post, the inside of the next one, and so on. The next twig fed into the fence goes the opposite direction: outside of post, inside, outside.

It was quiet work. I cut and stripped branches pruned from olive and ash trees, and listened to the water in a river running far down along the valley bottom. The bells of sheep and cows in far-off pastures

twinkled in the air; the wild shouts of herders were incomprehensible riddles that kept me company. Sometimes, I paused in my slow, steady work to catch sight of a screeching bird rushing through the trees.

I started my first fence in early March, and six weeks later I stood back and admired my handiwork. Definitely, it had been a lot of work. But I was satisfied.

Aesthetically, it was pleasing in its inexactness, rambling and irregular lines, its woodiness. I was happy to have used twigs and branches that otherwise would have been burned, either in the wood stove or as bonfires.

The wattle fence, I learned, was an ancient technique in use until the 1900s. Wattle panels are still intact inside many British homes built centuries ago. Archaeologists have found wattle fence remains dating to the ninth century A.D. in Britain. "It's such a cheap and versatile material," said Christopher Dyer, a historian at the University of Leicester in Great Britain who specializes in medieval agricultural life. "You can do lots of things with it — the problem of course is the labor."

This year, I started a second wattle fence for an even larger section of garden.

It's been slow going. But I'm convinced it's the way to go.

Now, I've found that the diggings of wild pigs on our land reach my first wattle fence and stop. And the pigs haven't jumped over the 3-foot-high fence — not yet, at least.

Just the other day, the importance of fences was starkly impressed on us: A flock of sheep escaped their enclosure and ate almost everything I had planted — with an overabundance of optimism — outside the wattle garden spot. Gone were tomato plants, arugula, peppers and parsley, as well as the leaves of baby citrus trees and grape vines.

Ah, fences. Unfortunately, this is a land where they're needed. □



This March 26, 2018 photo shows Cain Burdeau hammering into the ground a post for a garden wattle fence he's making in Contrada Petraro in the mountains of northern Sicily.

Associated Press